

Name _____ **Figures of Speech**



Writing with Allusions

An allusion is when a person or author makes an indirect reference to a (usually past) event or figure. An allusion does not give much detail about the reference or describe things in detail, as the event or figure is typically of momentous-significance historically, culturally, or politically, so the author has a reasonable expectation that people will understand the allusion without explanation. Allusions are often used within a metaphor or simile. In these cases, the comparison alludes to an event or person of significance that should be widely recognized.

DIRECTIONS: Read each of the following passages. Underline the allusion. Then explain its meaning.

1. When Dan arrived at his new school on his first day, he was disturbed to see policemen patrolling the halls, and tiny cameras fixed into the corners of the classrooms panned cold eyes. He leaned over and whispered to the boy sitting next to him, "When did this place go all Big Brother on you?"

2. Jean watched in astonishment as Margaret pocketed the money the boy handed her, instead of putting it in the soccer team's bake sale cash box. "What are you doing!" she hissed when the boy was gone. "Relax," Margaret said. "No one will know." "Well I know," Jean said, and turned to look for their coach. She didn't want anything to do with Margaret's Cookiegate.

3. Kellen got his fifteen minutes of fame when he was caught on video stumbling over a curb and falling into the street. The video went viral.

4. Marcia frowned, and mulled over the problem, which was a real Catch-22.
