

ALLUSION PRACTICE

Allusion: (n) a reference to a well-known piece of literature, art, song, event, or person in a work of literature.

Example: *His Goliath frame seemed to dwarf the other football players.*

“Goliath” is a reference to the character in the Bible named Goliath. He was a giant who was defeated by a small boy named David wielding a sling shot and a few stones. This allusion tells the readers that the boy in the sentence above is a large boy—larger than those around him.

Copy the following sentences. Underline the allusions in the following sentences, determine to what the writer is referring, and determine a possible meaning for the allusion.

1. The kindergarteners were frightened of the new principal who reminded them of Cruella DeVille.

Reference to: _____

Possible meaning: _____

2. I hoped to sign the birthday card our team bout for Coach, but I couldn't find a spot to sign my name because someone went all John Hancock on it and signed his name across the whole card.

Reference to: _____

Possible meaning: _____

3. Although the earthquake did a great deal of damage, it was nothing like the disaster of 9/11.

Reference to: _____

Possible meaning: _____

4. When I taught kindergarten, I often felt a bit like Bo Peep as I tried to herd the five year olds down the hall each morning.

Reference to: _____

Possible meaning: _____

5. My students misbehaved in the assembly, so when we returned to the classroom I became Hitler, and they understood that I meant business.

Reference to: _____

Possible meaning: _____

6. The three-year-old jumped out of the tub, leaving murky, dingy water in his wake. Staring into the tub, his dad exclaimed, "Wowsa. It's like the Boston Tea Party in there."

Reference to: _____

Possible meaning: _____