

## Allusion Practice

### Allusion

An **allusion** Refers to a well-known story, event, works of art, religion, movie, or object in order to make a comparison in the reader's mind.

The **allusion** does not give much detail about the reference--it does not describe things in detail. Rather, because these allusions are thought to be historically, culturally, or politically known by the culture---the speaker or author expects that people in general would understand the allusion without explanation.

**Allusions** are often used within a metaphor or simile. The comparison alludes to an event or person of significance that everyone should understand.

**Allusions** often make reference to previous works of literature, especially references to the Bible and Greek or Roman mythology.

### Examples of Allusion:

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- Your backyard is a Garden of Eden. (Biblical allusion)
- I guess I should see this message about a new job as my burning bush. (Biblical Allusion)
- When you feel betrayed by a friend, you can say, "You too, Brutus?" (allusion to Julius Caesar-Brutus betrayed Caesar)
- You're a regular Einstein. (allusion to a historical figure)
- You are carrying the weight of the world on your shoulders. (reference to Atlas in myth)
- That man is so narcissistic. (reference to Narcissus in mythology)
- Don't be a Scrooge! (reference to A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens)
- Potato chips are my diet's Achilles heel. (reference to Achilles in mythology)
- Many states have laws that protect Good Samaritan's. (reference to the Bible)

1. Find and circle the allusion in the following song lyric:

Romeo, take me somewhere we can be alone.  
I'll be waiting; all that's left to do is run.  
—Taylor Swift, "Love Story"

What does the text mean?

- A. The speaker loves someone she is forbidden to see.
- B. The speaker loves someone who doesn't care about her.

What other literary work does this allusion refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find and circle the allusion in the following:

Daniel seems to have the Midas touch. Without any special experience or training, he launched a thriving business and then established a well-respected charity.

What does the text mean?

- A. Daniel is successful in all that he does.
- B. Daniel has a hands-on approach to his work.

What other literary work does this allusion refer to? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Before the opening night of the play, Sarah was acting like the Cowardly Lion.

What does the text mean?

- A. Sarah had the part of the Cowardly Lion in the play.
- B. Sarah was very nervous before the opening night performance.

What other literary work does this allusion refer to? \_\_\_\_\_