

## Allusion

An **allusion** is a reference to someone or something from literature, history, religion, mythology, or another field. Many of the allusions in *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* come from “popular culture,” such as movies, songs, and television programs.

**Explain the following allusions. (The first one is done for you. Sometimes more than one meaning is possible.)**

1. *Allusion:* When Kenny and Joey wear their winter clothes, kids at school say, “Here come some of them Weird Watsons doing their Mummy imitations.”

*This allusion suggests that* being bundled up in heavy clothes makes them walk stiffly, with their arms out. The movie monster called the Mummy walks in the same way.

2. *Allusion:* As Momma plays with Byron’s conked hair, she calls him “Bozo,” after the television clown.

*This allusion suggests that* \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Allusion:* Grandma Sands laughs “just like the Wicked Witch of the West,” the villain of the movie *The Wizard of Oz*.

*This allusion suggests that* \_\_\_\_\_

4. *Allusion:* When Byron meets Grandma Sands, “it was like Dracula [the vampire] and a giraffe, and Byron was all neck.”

*This allusion suggests that* \_\_\_\_\_

5. *Allusion:* Toward the end of the novel, Byron brings Kenny along when he goes to play basketball. Kenny comments that “you didn’t have to be Albert Einstein [the brilliant scientist] to figure out” that Byron threatened the big guys into letting Kenny play.

*This allusion suggests that* \_\_\_\_\_