

Allusion

Definition: The act of alluding; making indirect reference

A literary device that quickly stimulates different ideas and associations using only a couple of words. Allusion relies on the reader being able to understand the allusion and being familiar with the meaning hidden behind the words.

Example: Describing someone as a "Romeo" makes an allusion to the famous young lover in Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

Examples of Allusion

Examples of allusion cover the following subjects:

- Biblical allusions
- Literary allusions
- Mythological allusions

Examples of Allusion in Poems, Poetry, Literature & Mythology

Poems with Allusion examples can be found by the most famous poets including Milton, Shakespeare and TS Eliot.

- "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" poem by Robert Frost
- "The Wasteland" by T.S. Eliot's which alludes to "Paradise Lost" by John Milton and "Percival by Chrétien de Troyes
- Dante's Inferno which alludes to the Greek mythological figures, Phaethon and Icarus
- The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare alludes to the Greek mythological character Cupid: "Come, come, Nerissa; for I long to see quick Cupid's post that comes so mannerly."
- Frankenstein by Mary Shelley alludes to both Shakespeare and Greek Mythology in several places
- The Prelude by William Wordsworth alludes to Paradise Lost by John Milton

Examples of Allusion Poems

Examples of Biblical Allusion

Examples of Biblical allusions include:

- "The Grapes of Wrath" by by John Steinbeck has numerous examples of Biblical allusions
- The quote "John was not his brother's keeper" is an allusion to the biblical story of Cain and Abel.

Use of Allusion in Poems & Poetry

Examples of Allusion can be found in many examples of the poem, poems or poetry. Famous poets use this figure of speech to convey and emphasize unusual and vivid images. The use of strong word association changes the mode of thought and adds variation, embellishment and adornment to literary works.

Figures of Speech - Allusion

In Figurative Language we use words in such a way that they differ somewhat from ordinary every-day speech and convey meanings in a more vivid and impressive manner. Figures, like Allusion make speech more effective, they beautify and emphasize it in Rhetoric which is the art of speaking and writing effectively. Figures of speech such as Allusion use word association to convey emotion and mood often in a non-literal sense.

Using Allusion

Figures of speech such as Allusion adds adornment, beautifies, colors, elegant variation, embellishment, embroidery, emphasis, exaggeration, exclamation, flourish, floweriness, irony, lushness and luxuriance to the English language. This page providing facts and info about Figures of Speech will help with the understanding of this subject.