Historical ALLUSIONS

PEOPLE

BENEDICT ARNOLD

- **Meaning:** someone who changes sides
- **Historical Reference:** an American general during the American Revolutionary War, Benedict Arnold defected to the British Army. A character referred to as a "Benedict Arnold," alludes to him being a traitor.
- **Sample Sentence:** Everyone called him a Benedict Arnold when the basketball player decided to change schools.

MOTHER TERESA

- **Meaning:** self-sacrificing servant, caretaker of the helpless
- **Historical Reference:** a Roman Catholic religious sister and missionary who lived most of her life in India. Her selfless acts of charity to the poor of that country made her a symbol of sacrificial love. Being like Mother Teresa could reference charity or selflessness.
- **Sample Sentence:** She's such a Mother Teresa when it comes to orphaned pets.

CASANOVA

- **Meaning:** a womanizer, a romantic
- **Historical Reference:** Giacomo Girolamo Casanova was an Italian adventurer and writer who romanced over 100 women during the early 1700s. Calling someone a Casanova could be a compliment or an insult. Referring to this character always involves a man who is focused on romancing women.
- **Sample Sentence:** Bill was such a Casanova at the party last night.

EVENTS

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

- **Meaning:** a prolonged period of despair/decline
- **Historical Reference:** the economic depression occurring in many countries preceding World War II. It spanned almost a decade (from the 1930s to mid-1940s). All—rich and poor—had to live frugally, and often without basic essentials (e.g., food, clothing, shelter, etc.).
- **Sample Sentence:** Keeping a tight budget felt like living through the Great Depression.

WATERGATE

- **Meaning:** a scandal based on secrecy
- **Historical Reference:** a scandal during the 1970s resulting from the break-in at the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee. An author might refer to a character's lying and secrecy as "another Watergate."
- **Sample Sentence:** His lie slowly unraveled like Watergate.

WATERLOO

- **Meaning:** a final defeat
- **Historical Reference:** a battle fought in 1816 where the French army, under Napoleon's command, was defeated resulting in Napoleon's abdication. If someone experiences a "Waterloo," it means that the defeat is complete and devastating.
- **Sample Sentence:** The football team knew going into the semi-finals that it was going to be their Waterloo.

©2014 **Smekens Education Solutions, Inc.** • *www.SmekensEducation.com*