

100 Allusion Examples in Poetry

1. "Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?" – William Blake's "The Tyger" alludes to the biblical creator.
2. "To Helen" – Edgar Allan Poe's poem references Helen of Troy, symbolizing beauty.
3. "Midway upon the journey of our life" – Dante's "Inferno" alludes to the biblical lifespan of 70 years.
4. "Do not go gentle into that good night" – Dylan Thomas alludes to death's inevitability.
5. "Out of the cradle endlessly rocking" – Walt Whitman's allusion to birth and the start of life's journey.
6. "That's my last Duchess painted on the wall" – Robert Browning alludes to historical duchesses and their portraits.
7. "Moloch whose eyes are a thousand blind windows!" – Allen Ginsberg's "Howl" references the biblical idol Moloch.
8. "I met a traveller from an antique land" – Percy Shelley's "Ozymandias" alludes to ancient civilizations.
9. "Golden lads and girls all must, as chimney-sweepers, come to dust." – Shakespeare's allusion to the transience of life.
10. "The world is too much with us; late and soon" – Wordsworth alludes to the detachment from nature in modern times.

11. "Though I am not naturally honest, I am sometimes so by chance." – Shakespeare's "Winter's Tale" alludes to the capricious nature of honesty.
12. "This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a whimper." – T.S. Eliot's allusion to the anticlimactic decline of civilizations.
13. "She was Pandora with the sealed box" – An allusion to the woman who, in Greek mythology, released all evils into the world.
14. "A little learning is a dangerous thing" – Alexander Pope's "Essay on Criticism" alludes to the hazards of superficial knowledge.
15. "This sepulchre, this sorrowing land" – W.H. Auden's allusion to a world plagued by war.
16. "Things fall apart; the center cannot hold" – Yeats references the chaos resulting from societal decline.
17. "Nature's first green is gold" – Robert Frost's "Nothing Gold Can Stay" alludes to the fleeting nature of beauty.
18. "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan" – Coleridge's allusion to the historical figure and his palace.
19. "Hope" is the thing with feathers – Emily Dickinson's allusion to the bird as a symbol of hope.
20. "Till human voices wake us, and we drown." – T.S. Eliot's allusion to the overwhelming nature of reality.
21. "I wandered lonely as a cloud" – Wordsworth's allusion to the Romantic era's appreciation of nature's beauty.
22. "When old age shall this generation waste" – Keats's "Ode to a Grecian Urn" alludes to the permanence of art and the fleeting nature of life.
23. "I have measured out my life with coffee spoons" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to the mundane repetitions of modern life.

24. "Achilles' wrath, to Greece the direful spring" – Homer's opening to "The Iliad" immediately alludes to the famed warrior, Achilles.
25. "Had we but world enough, and time" – Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress" alludes to the desire for eternal love.
26. "Back to her father's mansion in the skies" – Jonathan Swift's "Cadenus and Vanessa" references Venus, the goddess of love.
27. "I was but Jove's disguising" – Ben Jonson's "The Alchemist" alludes to Jupiter's (or Jove's) many transformations in mythology.
28. "Coffined thoughts around me" – Emily Bronte's "Stars" alludes to the dead weight of suppressed feelings.
29. "For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams" – Poe's "Annabel Lee" alludes to the haunting persistence of memories.
30. "And I will make thee beds of roses" – Christopher Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" alludes to the idealized romance of pastoral poetry.
31. "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings" – Shelley's allusion to the ephemeral nature of human achievements and power.
32. "Neptune's ocean wash this blood" – Shakespeare's "Macbeth" alludes to the Roman god of the sea to emphasize the guilt and enormity of King Duncan's murder.
33. "As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods" – Shakespeare's "King Lear" alludes to the insignificance and fragility of human life.
34. "Rise like Lions after slumber" – Shelley's "The Masque of Anarchy" alludes to the strength and power lying dormant within the masses.
35. "Sorrow knocked at my door, but I was afraid" – Langston Hughes alludes to opportunities lost to fear.
36. "I think of Agamemnon" – Ezra Pound's "Hugh Selwyn Mauberley" alludes to the tragic Greek king to explore the sacrifices made for art.

37. "Leda and the Swan" – Yeats's entire poem is an allusion to the Greek myth of Zeus and Leda.
38. "Lost in a wood, in a dark mood" – a modern allusion to Dante's journey in "The Divine Comedy."
39. "Like the stillness in the wind 'fore the hurricane begins" – an allusion to the calm before a storm.
40. "Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter" – Keats's "Ode on a Grecian Urn" alludes to the power of imagination over reality.
41. "Echoing footsteps of the past" – an allusion to the Greek nymph Echo, cursed to only repeat the last words spoken to her.
42. "He's got an Achilles' heel" – referencing Achilles from Greek mythology, it alludes to one's vulnerability despite overall strength.
43. "Then felt I like some watcher of the skies" – Keats's "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" alludes to the awe of discovery, comparing it to an astronomer discovering a new planet.
44. "Let us go then, you and I" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to the potential journey of a soul searching for meaning in the modern world.
45. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" – Keats's "Endymion" references eternal beauty, alluding to the timeless nature of true art.
46. "The falcon cannot hear the falconer" – Yeats's "The Second Coming" alludes to societal breakdown and chaos.
47. "You remind me of the babe" – an allusion to the power of innocence and youth, often found in folklore and tales.
48. "To Carthage then I came" – T.S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" alludes to Augustine's "Confessions", signaling a spiritual journey or transformation.

49. "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams" – Yeats's "Aedh Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven" alludes to the vulnerability of sharing one's hopes and aspirations.
50. "Milton! I think thy spirit hath passed away" – Shelley's "Adonais" mourns the death of Keats but alludes to another great poet, John Milton.
51. "And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming" – Poe's "The Raven" alludes to tormenting memories that haunt the mind.
52. "The sedge has withered from the lake" – Coleridge's "La Belle Dame sans Merci" alludes to the lifelessness resulting from a fatal enchantment.
53. "For I have known them all already, known them all" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to the weariness of repeated experiences.
54. "And what shoulder, & what art, Could twist the sinews of thy heart?" – Blake's "The Tyger" references the biblical creator.
55. "I, being born a woman and distressed" – Edna St. Vincent Millay's allusion to the limitations and expectations placed on women.
56. "She walks in beauty, like the night" – Byron's allusion to the ethereal beauty of a woman juxtaposed with the night.
57. "And the raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting" – Poe's "The Raven" alludes to the permanence of grief and sorrow.
58. "Thy eternal summer shall not fade" – Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 alludes to the timeless beauty immortalized through poetry.
59. "I wandered as a cloud that floats on high o'er vales and hills" – Wordsworth's allusion to a sense of freedom and tranquility.
60. "And by the moon, the reaper weary" – Robert Frost's "After Apple-Picking" alludes to the end of one's journey or life.
61. "The mind, the music breathing from her face" – Byron's allusion to the harmonious beauty of thought and expression in "The Dream".

62. "Whose world, or mine or theirs or is it of none?" – Emily Dickinson's allusion to the subjective nature of reality and existence.
63. "The world was all before them" – Milton's "Paradise Lost" alludes to Adam and Eve's exile, signifying new beginnings filled with uncertainty.
64. "And I a smiling woman" – Sylvia Plath's "Lady Lazarus" alludes to her resurrection, echoing the biblical story of Lazarus.
65. "The sun will stand as your best man" – Dylan Thomas's allusion to the universal witness to love and unity.
66. "By the shores of Gitche Gumee" – Longfellow's "The Song of Hiawatha" alludes to Lake Superior, anchoring the poem in Native American tales.
67. "I am no prophet — and here's no great matter" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to the reluctance to predict or influence the future.
68. "And close your eyes with holy dread" – Blake's "The Tyger" alludes to the awe and fear of divine creation.
69. "The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed" – Shelley's "Ozymandias" alludes to the transient nature of power and the inevitable decay of empires.
70. "A mighty woman with a torch" – Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus" alludes to the Statue of Liberty as a beacon of hope and freedom.
71. "Because I could not stop for Death" – Emily Dickinson's allusion to the inevitable nature of death personified as a polite suitor.
72. "And the fire and the rose are one" – T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets" alludes to spiritual transcendence and unity.
73. "The Child is father of the Man" – Wordsworth's "My Heart Leaps Up" alludes to the formative influence of childhood on adulthood.
74. "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity" – Yeats's "The Second Coming" alludes to the challenges of societal breakdown.

75. "Hope is the thing with feathers" – Emily Dickinson's allusion to the delicate yet resilient nature of hope.
76. "They also serve who only stand and wait" – Milton's "On His Blindness" alludes to different ways of serving a higher power or purpose.
77. "Canst thou bind the sweet influences of Pleiades?" – Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" alludes to the constellation Pleiades and the vastness of the universe.
78. "Beware the Jabberwock, my son!" – Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" alludes to the challenges and monsters we face in life.
79. "Quoth the Raven 'Nevermore'" – Poe's allusion to finality and never-ending despair.
80. "I celebrate myself, and sing myself" – Whitman's "Song of Myself" alludes to the importance of self-acceptance and individuality.
81. "Golden daffodils" – Wordsworth's "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" alludes to the ephemeral beauty of nature and its lasting impression on the human spirit.
82. "Something there is that doesn't love a wall" – Frost's "Mending Wall" alludes to the inherent human desire to break barriers and connect.
83. "Do I dare disturb the universe?" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to the internal struggle of taking action amidst life's complexities.
84. "The sea of faith was once, too, at the full" – Arnold's "Dover Beach" alludes to a waning religious faith during a time of increasing doubt.
85. "Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!" – Shelley's "Ozymandias" alludes to the hubris of rulers and the transience of empires.
86. "Till the gossamer thread you fling catch somewhere, O my soul" – Whitman's "A Noiseless Patient Spider" alludes to the soul's search for connection and meaning.

87. "A prism of delight, a purple light" – Emily Dickinson's allusion to the wonder and mystery of nature's spectacles.
88. "In me thou see'st the twilight of such day" – Shakespeare's Sonnet 73 alludes to the waning phase of life, drawing parallels with nature.
89. "Out of the ash I rise with my red hair" – Sylvia Plath's "Lady Lazarus" alludes to rebirth and resilience, reminiscent of the phoenix myth.
90. "The world is too much with us; late and soon" – Wordsworth's allusion to humanity's increasing detachment from nature in the face of materialism.
91. "A singing mountain sang a song for me" – Cummings' allusion to nature's profound impact on the human psyche.
92. "Two vast and trunkless legs of stone" – Shelley's "Ozymandias" alludes to the remnants of a forgotten empire, emphasizing the inevitability of decay.
93. "What happens to a dream deferred?" – Langston Hughes's "Harlem" alludes to the postponement of aspirations and the consequences thereof.
94. "When old age shall this generation waste" – Shakespeare's Sonnet 2 alludes to the fleetingness of beauty and the passage of time.
95. "This is the way the world ends" – T.S. Eliot's "The Hollow Men" alludes to the gradual decay of societal values leading to an unremarkable end.
96. "When you are old and grey and full of sleep" – Yeats's allusion to the reflection of youth in one's twilight years.
97. "The mermaids singing, each to each" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to a distant, unattainable fantasy.
98. "Like a patient etherized upon a table" – T.S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" alludes to the paralysis of the modern individual.
99. "My name is Ozymandias, king of kings" – Shelley's allusion to the ultimate vanity of temporal power.

100. "Night's Plutonian shore" – Poe's "The Raven" alludes to the underworld, symbolizing a realm of unending sorrow and darkness.

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