

Allusion

- An allusion is a figure of speech that makes a reference to a place, person, or something that happened. This can be real or imaginary and may refer to anything, including paintings, opera, folk lore, mythical figures, or religious manuscripts. The reference can be direct or may be inferred, and can broaden the reader's understanding.

Literary Allusions

- There are several ways that an allusion can help a writer:
- Allusions engage the reader and will often help the reader remember the message or theme of the passage.
- Allusions allow the writer to give an example or get a point across without going into a lengthy discourse.

- Allusions are contingent on the reader knowing about the story or event that is referenced. Here are some examples that allude to people or events in literature:
- “I was surprised his nose was not growing like Pinocchio’s.” This refers to the story of Pinocchio, where his nose grew whenever he told a lie. It is from *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, written by Carlo Collodi.
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- When she lost her job, she acted like a Scrooge, and refused to buy anything that wasn't necessary." Scrooge was an extremely stingy character from Charles Dickens', *A Christmas Carol*.

- “I thought the software would be useful, but it was a Trojan Horse.” This refers to the horse that the Greeks built that contained all the soldiers. It was given as a gift to the enemy during the Trojan War and, once inside the enemy's walls, the soldiers broke out. By using trickery, the Greeks won the war.

- “He was a real Romeo with the ladies.” Romeo was a character in Shakespeare’s play, Romeo and Juliet, and was very romantic in expressing his love for Juliet.

- “Chocolate was her Achilles’ heel.” This means that her weakness was her love of chocolate. Achilles is a character in Greek mythology who was invincible. His mother dipped him in magical water when he was a baby, and she held him by the heel. The magic protected him all over, except for his heel.

- “She has the beauty and grace of Aphrodite.” This is a reference to the Greek goddess of love (you may know the Roman version – Venus).
- “He was like Hercules on the football field; he recorded four sacks and ten tackles.” This is a reference to the strength of the Greek hero.

Biblical Allusions

- **Biblical Allusions**
- There are many biblical allusions that are used in our everyday language and in writing.
- Here are a few examples:
- “He was a Good Samaritan yesterday when he helped the lady start her car.” This refers to the biblical story of the Good Samaritan.

Biblical Allusions

- “You are a Solomon when it comes to making decisions.” This refers to King Solomon, who was very wise.
- “Surprisingly, the team pulled off a David vs. Goliath victory.” This refers to the biblical story where the smaller David slays the giant.