

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment: Allusion Workshop

Allusion (noun). In literature, an implied or indirect reference to another literary work or historical event.

Two basic sources from which writers, especially poets, draw allusions and metaphors are the Bible and the ancient classical writings (mainly Greek and Roman). A knowledge of the characters and stories contained in the Bible and in the body of myths and legends will add appreciably to your ability to analyze good literature of all kinds. From the very beginning of the literary canon, writers have borrowed characters, plots, and themes from these sources.

Sources for Allusion Workshop: *The Bible* (King James Version only) and Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*.

For your summer reading assignment, please read the following biblical and mythological stories. Your written assignment is on the next page:

- 1: The Garden of Eden (Genesis Chap. 1-3)
- 2: Pandora's Box
- 3: Cain and Abel (Genesis Chapter 4)
- 4: Odysseus and the Trojan Horse
- 5: Noah and the Flood (Genesis Chap 6-9)
- 6: Pygmalion and Galatea
- 7: The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
- 8: Daphne and the Laurel Wreath
- 9: Sodom and Gomorrha (Genesis 18-19)
- 10: Echo and Narcissus
- 11: Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 21-22)
- 12: Jason and the Golden Fleece
- 13: Jacob and Esau (Genesis 25)
- 14: Cupid and Psyche
- 15: Joseph and the coat of many colors (Genesis 37)
- 16: The Birth of Christ (Luke 1-2)
- 17: Rescue of the Child Moses (Exodus 1-2)
- 18: The Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
- 19: The Passover (Exodus 12)
- 20: Midas and the Golden Touch
- 21: Arachne and Athena
- 22: Samson and the Philistines (Judges 13-16)
- 23: The Death of John the Baptist (Mark 6)
- 24: Pilate and Jesus (Matt.27)
- 25: The agony of Christ (Mark 14)

Please write neatly or type your work. For each of the stories, **list** the following:

Name of story

Source (Biblical, Greek, Roman, etc.)

Approximately a 150 word summary of the story

Approximately a 50-word commentary on sources of conflict in the plot and the significance (importance) of that conflict. Types of conflict include: man vs. man, man vs. God or god, man vs. nature, man vs. himself, etc. Please remember, regardless of your beliefs, the Judeo-Christian God is always capitalized whereas references to the Greek and Roman gods are always written with a small "g."

Approximately a 100-word evaluation of theme. Theme is the overall meaning of a work, and it always derives from the conflicts. Keeping it even more simple, theme is the "lesson learned" by the reader. Themes are also universal in their application. In other words, themes apply to all human beings across cultures and across time and often, therefore, involve truth, beauty, love, death, good, evil, etc., those things which are common in all people regardless of time or culture. Be an articulate critic and tell me what aspects of the story benefit you as a reader. If none do, fine. Tell me why.

Hopefully, you can see that **each response is no more than about a half page.**

Grading Rubric for Allusion Workshop

10 Points (A+) An awesome response! Filled with thoughtful commentary using extensive evidence. Satisfies all requirements and more. You really taught me something!

9 Points (A) Still an excellent response. Satisfies all requirements. Effective and thoughtful analysis of plot. Responsible commentary of the piece.

8 Points (B) A good response. Some evidence OR commentary may be superficial, but most is still good. Accurate analysis of the plot.

7 Points (C) A fair response. Effort is made; however, over-simplification and superficiality mark most of what is written OR evidence is often not the best choice OR the plot analysis is inaccurate.

6 Points (D) A poor response. Very little effort is made OR the response is oversimplified OR plot analysis is inaccurate.

5 points or less (F) A mockery of Honors/AP work.

WARNING: DO NOT COPY SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK. THAT AUTOMATICALLY RESULTS IN A ZERO FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.

This hand-out should also be available on the Doherty website this summer under departments, under English, under 9th Honors; however, if the new system is not in place, please email Mrs. Montague, montaea@d11.org, and I will send you a new copy if you lose this one. In any event, **you must complete the summer assignment to remain in the class.** See you in the fall.