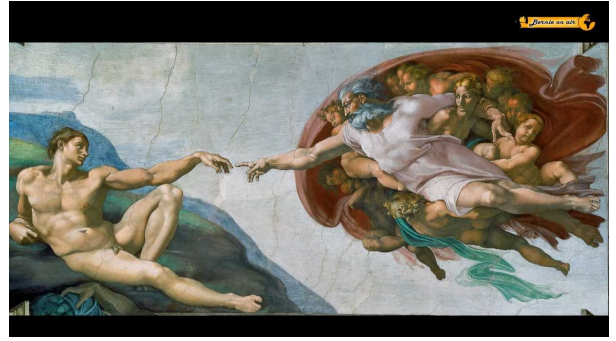


AP Literature & Composition Group Allusions Project



An **allusion** is a reference, explicit or implicit, to something in previous literature or history. This is an important literary concept that you will encounter repeatedly in poetry, drama, and fiction (*especially classic literature*). With allusions, authors can engage the reader in making associations and creating meaning.

Put a check next to all the stories you know. Circle the stories you don't know.

ARTHURIAN

- *Uther and Igraine & the story of Arthur's birth
- *Arthur, Guenevere, and Lancelot (their stories and the love triangle)
- *Sir Gawain and "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" (story in verse)
- *Merlin
- *Morgan le Fay
- *Nimue *alias* Vivienne, Lady of the Lake
- *Mordred
- **Places*: Avalon and Camelot
- **Objects*: Excalibur, the Sword in the Stone, the Holy Grail

BIBLICAL

- *Creation
- *Adam and Eve
- *Cain and Abel

- *David and Goliath
- *Moses (birth to the promised land)
- *Abraham and Isaac
- *Tower of Babel
- *Jonah and the Whale
- *Samson and Delilah
- *Solomon
- *Job
- *Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors
- *Armageddon
- *Daniel in the Lion's Den
- *Elijah
- *Jezebel
- *Sodom and Gomorrah
- *Birth of Jesus
- *Parable of the Prodigal Son
- *Lazarus
- *John the Baptist
- *Last Supper
- *Judas
- *Crucifixion and Resurrection
- *Doubting Thomas
- *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

CLASSICAL/MYTHOLOGICAL

- *Prometheus (and Io)
- *Narcissus
- *The Golden Fleece
- *Orpheus and Eurydice
- *Daedalus (and Icarus)
- *Cupid and Psyche
- *Pygmalion and Galatea
- *Daphne (and Apollo)
- *Perseus
- *Theseus
- *Hercules
- *Oedipus (including Sphinx)
- *Antigone
- *The Trojan War (including the fall of Troy, Achilles, Hector, Paris, Helen, & the Trojan Horse)
- *Midas
- *Bacchus
- *Agamemnon, Orestes, and Electra (also known in whole as *The Oresteia*)
- *Leda and the Swan
- *Pandora
- *Odysseus/Ulysses

FAIRY TALES

(If you only know the Disney version you don't know the tale.)

- *The Ugly Duckling
- *Snow White
- *Rumpelstiltskin

- *Rapunzel
- *The Princess and the Pea
- *The Pied Piper of Hamelin
- *Little Red Riding Hood
- *Hansel and Gretel
- *The Frog Prince
- *Cinderella
- *Bluebeard
- *Beauty and the Beast
- *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves
- *Aladdin

Your group will be assigned a set of allusions that you will learn and know *well*. You may read whatever sources you wish: children's tales, the Bible, encyclopedias, or reference books. I highly recommend Edith Hamilton's ***Mythology*** as a good overview of Greek and Roman myths. There are also hundreds of books on the Bible, and if you are up for the originals check out Ovid's ***Metamorphoses*** and the ***New Revised Standard Version of the Bible***. For Arthurian information only use credible websites (not personal pages). ***Britannia.com*** is a good site to start at for Arthurian character and story information. A good place to start for fairy tale research is at the Internet Public Library Pathfinder on the topic: <http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48473>.

Biblical Allusions Group 1	Greek and Roman Mythology Group 1
Creation Adam and Eve Cain and Abel David and Goliath Moses (birth to the promised land) Abraham and Isaac Tower of Babel Jonah and the Whale Samson and Delilah	Prometheus (and Io) Narcissus The Golden Fleece Orpheus and Eurydice Daedalus (and Icarus) Cupid and Psyche Pygmalion and Galatea Daphne (and Apollo)
Biblical Allusions Group 2	Greek and Roman Mythology Group 2
Solomon Job Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors Armageddon Daniel in the Lion's Den Elijah Jezebel Sodom and Gomorrah Birth of Jesus	Perseus Theseus Hercules Oedipus (including Sphinx) Antigone The Trojan War (including the fall of Troy, Achilles, Hector, Paris, Helen, and the Trojan Horse)
Biblical Allusions Group 3	Greek and Roman Mythology Group 3
Parable of the Prodigal Son Lazarus John the Baptist Last Supper Judas Crucifixion and Resurrection Doubting Thomas Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	Midas Bacchus Agamemnon, Orestes, and Electra (also known in whole as <i>The Oresteia</i>) Leda and the Swan Pandora Odysseus/Ulysses

Arthurian Group	Fairy Tale Group
Uther and Igraine and the story of Arthur's birth Arthur, Guenevere, and Lancelot (their stories and the love triangle) Sir Gawain and "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight" (story in verse) Merlin Morgan le Fay Nimue <i>alias</i> Vivienne, Lady of the Lake Perceval Mordred <i>Places:</i> Avalon and Camelot <i>Objects:</i> Excalibur, the Sword in the Stone, the Holy Grail	The Ugly Duckling Snow White Rumpelstiltskin The Princess and the Pea The Pied Piper of Hamelin Little Red Riding Hood Hansel and Gretel The Frog Prince The Fisherman and His Wife Cinderella Bluebeard Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves Aladdin

Next, you are going to create a teaching document that includes, in your own words, an explanation of the story ***with an MLA citation***. You may use a PowerPoint, Word Document, Video Presentation, or other creative means of teaching these stories to the class. Your presentation should also include a handout with summaries of your stories for studying purposes. If you already know the story by heart (and you will probably know a few) double-check with an outside source for accuracy and cite the source. You will need to send me an electronic copy of your handout document and provide me with a hardcopy in advance of your teaching day so that photocopies can be made. A good MLA reference website to help you create your MLA works cited page is Perdue University's OWL website:

<<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>>.

Each story you explain does not need to be long; written, most should be a paragraph or so. The purpose of the assignment is to give you and your classmates a working knowledge of allusion structures.

You will be teaching this information to your classmates the week of October 6-10. A final test on all of the allusions will be given the last week of Quarter 1 (October 13-17).

Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse are prophesized about in the Bible's "Book of Revelations." The riders are beasts upon four horses—white, red, black, and pale-green--symbolizing, conquest, war, famine, and death. These four riders herald an apocalypse upon the Earth. The white horseman is often regarded as the coming of Plague. The red horseman is seen as the bringer of civil war, and the black horseman brings famine and or poverty. Finally, the last 'rider on the pale horse' is seen death.



from *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

When the four horsemen came—schoolteacher, one nephew, one slave catcher and a sheriff—the house on Bluestone Road was so quiet they thought they were too late. Three of them dismounted, one stayed in the saddle his rifle ready...

...holding a blood-soaked child to her chest with one hand and an infant by the heels in the other. She did not look at them; she simply swung the baby toward the wall planks...



Works Cited

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