

Allusions in *Great Expectations*

Allusion	Details about the allusion:	How does this allusion connect to <i>Great Expectations</i> ? What is the significance to Pip's story/bildungsroman/JILES?
Hercules	Hercules was a Roman hero who was later turned into a god. His Greek equivalent is Heracles. He is famous for his great strength and his adventures, which included his Twelve Labours – impossible tasks which were set for him as a punishment.	Pip calls Joe 'a sort of Hercules in strength, and also in weakness'. Obviously, the main connection here is physical size and strength, but what is Joe's weakness? Hercules is not supposed to be particularly unintelligent, so it can't be that. Hercules's main weakness was misfortune. He was cursed from birth by the goddess Hera, who hated Hercules because he was the son of her husband, Zeus, by another woman. For this, he was made to suffer throughout his life. In the end though, the gods take pity on him for his great suffering and reward him with a place on Mount Olympus and the status of a god. Perhaps this foreshadows Joe's eventual happy ending with Biddy after the suffering of his first marriage?
The Garden of Eden		
Hamlet		
George Barnwell		
Frankenstein		
Cain and Abel		
The Odyssey		
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector		
The Prodigal Son		