

Allusions in *Long Way Down*

Jason Reynolds' *Long Way Down* is a poem full of allusions to other works or to the world beyond the poem. For this week, I want you to explore one of these allusions. You may pick from the four options below, or choose your own if you can make a strong case:

1. Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Christmas_Carol
2. Dante's *Inferno*: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inferno_\(Dante\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inferno_(Dante))
3. T.S. Eliot's *The Wasteland*: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Waste_Land
4. The East Coast/West Coast feud of Biggie Smalls and Tupac Shakur:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biggie_%26_Tupac
<https://www.biography.com/news/biggie-tupac-friends-rivals-east-coast-west-coast>

For the allusion you choose, try to name as many elements as you can that the two works have in common. Are there common characters? Symbols? Phrases?

Do original research if you have the time; write ~1-2 pages, double-spaced.