

Name _____ Date _____

Allusion Worksheet

**Allusion* is a reference to some famous event, person, place, or artistic work, which is not explained by the writer but relies on the reader's familiarity with what is mentioned.

*Allusions are a type of metaphor, comparing one thing to another.

*The most popular literature used as sources for allusions are "The Bible," Shakespeare, and mythology. What does that tell you? ...You must be well-read in order to understand many allusions.

*The purpose of allusions is to allow the reader/viewer to understand new information by connecting it to something already known.

*Example—*Sally had a smile that rivaled that of Mona Lisa.* Since everyone is familiar with the painting, they can imagine what Sally's smile looks like.

*Example—*I'm standing there on a balcony in summer air...little did I know that you were Romeo...so I sneak out to the garden to see you...* Taylor Swift's song "Love Story" is an allusion to Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*.

Directions: Each set of sentences below contains an allusion. Identify the allusion, then explain what the author wants you to understand from the allusion.

1. The three-year-old jumped out of the tub, leaving murky, dingy water in his wake. Staring into the tub, his dad exclaimed, "Wow, it's like the Boston Tea Party in there."

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

2. He poured his heart out in the love letter to his girlfriend. The letter was as poetic as if Shakespeare himself had written it.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

3. I hoped to sign the birthday card our team bought for Coach, but I couldn't find a spot to sign my name because someone went all John Hancock on it.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

4. "I don't know if this store carries shoes in your size, Sasquatch," my dad joked when we went shopping for another new pair of shoes, my second pair in two months.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

5. Doug showed off his new gold watch to his friend Rachel. "Nice watch, Jay Z!" Rachel gushed.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

6. The rock was so heavy even Hercules would have a hard time moving it.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

7. Harriet Tubman was the "Moses" of her people.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

8. She fell for him, knowing well that he is nothing less than a Casanova.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

9. For those on a strict, weight-loss diet, desserts become a forbidden fruit.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

10. After my dad took a pay cut at work, Mom became a Scrooge, never letting us spend money unless it was absolutely necessary.

Allusion _____

Meaning _____

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! Write five sentences making allusions to characters or events from the following categories.

11. TV _____

12. Movies _____

13. Books _____

14. Songs _____

15. History _____