AP English Literature

**ALLUSION ASSIGNMENT: *The BIBLE AS LITERATURE***

**Purpose:**

To understand words derived from mythology, the Bible, history, and literature, that are commonly used as allusions in literature. Students must recognize allusions when they come across them in literature to have a true understanding of the deeper meaning of the texts.

**Method:**

You will be assigned ONE allusion to research and present to the class. This will count as a project assignment. It is your job to have a complete understanding of your individual allusion so that you can help your classmates in understanding the meaning as well. To help facilitate this process, you must create a card for each class member, including me, that relates pertinent information and provides a visual. Your classmates will use this card to study the allusion.

**Process:**

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| * Step 1: Look up your allusion in an encyclopedia to get a general idea of its significance |
| * Step 2: Read your story in the original text (AKA, read the part of the Bible where your allusion is found)   EX: I’m responsible for the allusion of “Solomon,” so I read the chapter 1Kings, where his story is found)  *Don’t have a Bible? Find the full text online, or ask someone to borrow theirs.* |
| * Step 3: Summarize important events from your allusion’s story   \*Summary receives its own grade on presentation day |
| * Step 4: Follow the directions below to make a notecard for EACH of your fellow students so they too can know your allusion’s story (That’s 70 total cards!) |

**Technical:**

**Card Dimensions:**

-**-Must be 4x6 in size on note cards**

--You have to make the allusion projects on note cards. Therefore, you need to make sure that happens. Bring it in a day early if you need photocopies to glue onto notecards. Whatever it takes.

**Card info:**

--On the front side: the allusion words as well as an ORIGINAL pictorial representation that aptly shows the importance of the allusion. (No copying and pasting from google images) Originality is highly regarded! Remember, we should be able to look at the picture and make an immediate connection to the definition.

The notecard should include:

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| * The chapter(s) of the Bible where the allusion appears |
| * Whether the allusion is a person, event, idea, etc., & approx. when they lived /occurred |
| The Origin and History of the word:   * Write a summary paragraph **including a specific and encompassing topic sentence** on the background of the word that explains its meaning. Make sure you give enough **context** and background information so that other people can understand your allusion as well as you do |
| * Your own original sentence using this word **in context** |
| * Works Cited information |
| * WORD OF WARNING: Make sure you write this information *in your own words* |

**Presentation:**

You must present your allusion to your classmates after passing out their cards. Presentation includes:

* 3 minute summary of the information on the card, hit the **KEY POINTS**
* **2** minutes for your classmates to ask questions
* DO NOT read off your note card
* DO rehearse beforehand so that you speak fluidly and communicate your ideas in an expressive manner

**You will have one test over Biblical allusions that will be cumulative in nature. You are responsible for making sure your classmates know these allusions and have reliable information.**

Recommended resources:

*As previously mentioned, Wikipedia is not an acceptable go-to source.*

Here’s a list of more reliable places to start looking:

*The Oxford Dictionary of Allusion*: Andrew Delahunty

*Dictionary of Classical, Biblical, and Literary Allusions*: Abraham H. Lass

*Everyday Biblical Literacy: The Essential Guide to Biblical Allusions in Art, Literature and Life:* J Stephen Lang

*Britannica Online* Encyclopedia (or other *sourced* encyclopedias)

EXAMPLE:

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| --- |
| FRONT  DEATH  JESUS  “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” |

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| --- |
| BACK   * The stories of about Jesus appear in: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts * Jesus is a *person* in the Bible, born when time begins: 0 AD, and is the ‘founder’ of Christianity. * God’s son Jesus, earthly son of the Virgin Mary and Joseph the carpenter, is the Biblical savior of Christianity, a teacher, healer, man of quiet prayer who opened the Kingdom of Heaven for all future sinners. Despite humble beginnings and a birth in the barn behind an inn to poor, relative obscure parents, Jesus is soon worshipped as the Messiah, or savior. Kings come from faraway lands to worship at his cradle, and shepherds bring their animals to witness the newborn. As he grows up, Jesus learns more about the church of his faith, Judaism, and lives a relatively normal life as a carpenter. But in his 30s, began to travel and preach a new understanding of God as merciful and loving, unlike the hardened Judaic god. He begins to perform miracles, and gathers many followers. However, the Romans (who are ‘in charge’ at this time) and the leaders of the Jewish temple grow uneasy with his claims and power, and decide to have him executed. Jesus is tortured, nailed to a cross, mocked, and left to die. He returns 3 days after death to earth, to proclaim anew the truth of his religion; to let everyone know that Heaven is their reality after death. After 40 days on earth, he Ascends back to heaven. * My mother was so proud of my older brother’s accomplishments; she thought he walked on water like Jesus himself. * Works Cited: Delahunty, Andrew. *The Oxford Dictionary of Allusion.* Oxford: University Press, 2001, 254.   The Holy Bible, Revised Standard Version. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1952, 973-1211. |

Allusion: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Presentation Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_