

# Allusion Research Jigsaw

An allusion is a reference, explicit or implicit, to previous literature or history. Using allusions, authors can enrich a passage by inviting readers to make associations that can deepen or broaden meaning. Readers unaware of allusions, however, will miss these meanings—not OK for an AP student.

Learn the following allusions well. Use whatever sources you wish: children's tales, the Bible, encyclopedias, or reference books, or credible websites, not personal pages. For the Bible; prefer the Authorized (King James) Version, the one that's had by far the greatest influence on literature. If you are up for the originals of much of the mythology, check out Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. Britannia.com is a good site to start for Arthurian character and story information. For fairy tale research, try the Internet Public Library Pathfinder: <http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48473>.

Next, you are going to create a teaching document that includes, in your own words, an explanation of the story with an MLA (or APA) citation of the source. If you already know the story by heart double-check with an outside source for accuracy and cite the source. You will need to send me an electronic copy of your document and provide a hard copy in advance of your teaching day, so that photocopies can be made. A good website to help you create your MLA works cited page is Purdue's OWL at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>.

The stories you explain need not be long; written, most should be a paragraph or so. The purpose here is to give all of you a working knowledge of allusion. You will be teaching this information to your classmates. A test will follow.

## BIBLICAL 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  
Solomon  
Job  
Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors  
Armageddon

## BIBLICAL GROUP 2

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

## GREEK/ ROMAN MYTHOLOGY GROUP 1

Prometheus (and Io)  
Narcissus  
The Golden Fleece  
Orpheus and Eurydice  
Daedalus (and Icarus)  
Cupid and Psyche  
Pygmalion and Galatea  
Daphne (and Apollo)  
Perseus  
Theseus

## GREEK/ ROMAN MYTHOLOGY GROUP 2

Hercules  
Oedipus (including Sphinx)  
Antigone  
The Trojan War (including the fall of Troy, Achilles, Hector, Paris, Helen, and the Trojan Horse)  
Midas  
Bacchus  
Agamemnon, Orestes, and Electra (also known in whole as *The Oresteia*)  
Leda and the Swan  
Pandora  
Odysseus/Ulysses (know who he is, do not study *The Odyssey*)

## ARTHURIAN GROUP

Uther and Igraine and the story of Arthur's birth  
Arthur, Guenevere, and Lancelot (their stories & 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  
Perceval  
Mordred  
Places: Avalon and Camelot  
Objects: Excalibur, the Sword in the Stone, the Holy Grail

## FAIRY TALE GROUP

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

*adapted from Jenna Gardner*