

Allusion





Definition:

A brief, symbolic reference to a well-known or familiar:

- person
- place
- event
- literary work
- author
- work of art
- historical event
- musical work
- film or movie





Allusions make us ask the question:

What does this remind me of?





Types of Allusion

Biblical: referring to the Bible or a religious work

Classical: referring to Classical Literature

Literary: referring to another literary work

Historical: referring to an event in history





Allusions are Everywhere:





But you must know the reference in order to understand the allusion!

For those of you who have never seen The Sound of Music, that Family Guy clip was probably meaningless!

Being well-read and having brief experiences with various aspects of music, art, and pop culture help us to understand allusions in every day life.

Imagine an alien watching Family Guy... it wouldn't understand any of the jokes!



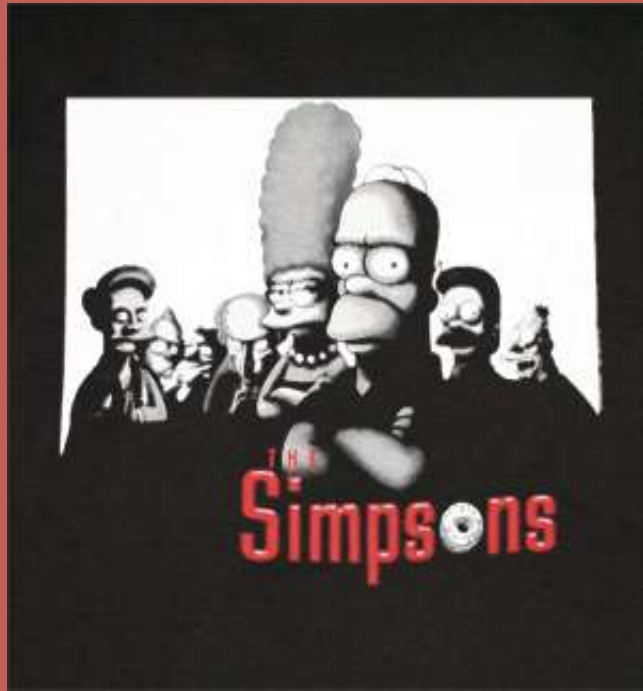


Try to identify the allusions below...



The Simpsons and Family Guy allude to popular movies....

TV Shows...





...and famous works of art!!!





This is the original version of the painting by Salvador Dali.





The Simpsons has even alluded to Lord of the Flies!!!



Note the broken glasses!!





Why do writers and musicians use allusion?

A quick allusion can create a mood in just a few words, rather than using a long explanation.

Allusions help writers and musicians relate to their audiences.

Combinations of allusions can contribute to a certain THEME. For example, a musician may use a number of Biblical allusions to make a statement about his own religious beliefs.



So tonight, go home and watch TV,
read a poem, or listen to some
music

Write down any allusions you find (try
and find at least two).

Write down what type of allusion it is: (is
it Biblical, Literary, Classical??)

What does the allusion refer to?

How does that reference contribute to
the theme that the show/poem/song
is trying to get across?

