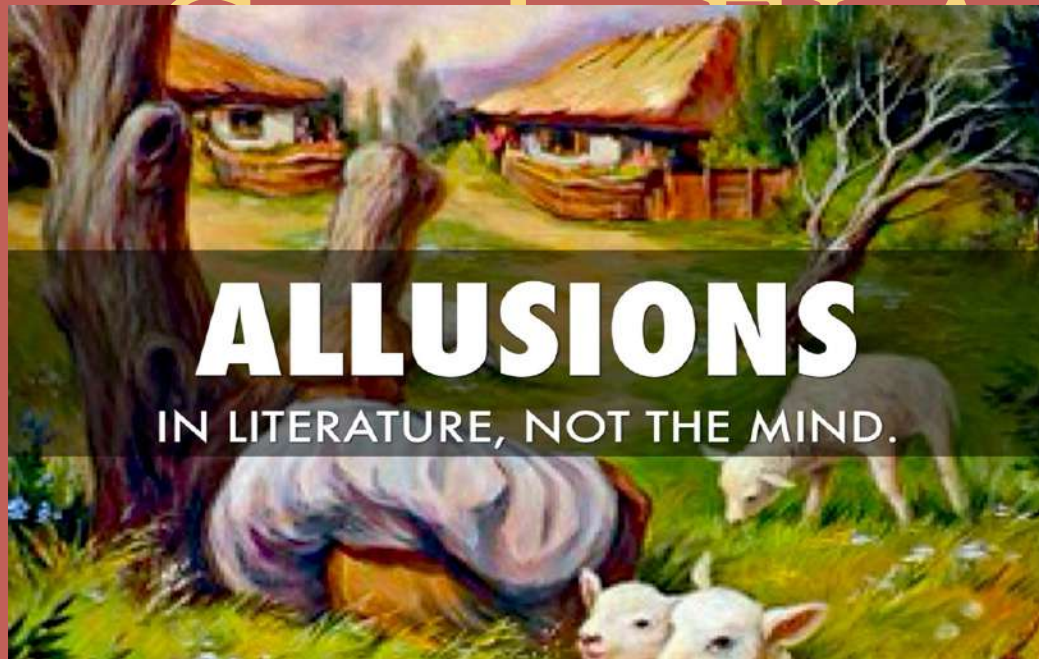


What are Allusions??

Mrs. Brown 8th





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

Political: referring to something associated with politics





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!



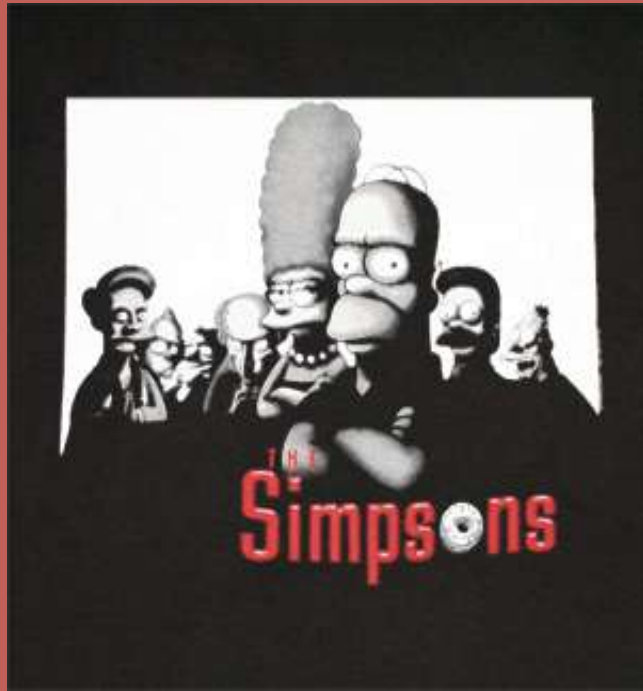


Try to identify the allusions below...



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!!



Allusions are most common today in hip-hop music:

I philosophy

Possibly speak tongues
Beat drum, Abyssinian, street Baptist
Rap this in fine linen
From the beginning
My practice extending across the atlas
I begat this
Flippin' in the ghetto on a dirty mattress
You can't match this rapper / actress
More powerful than two Cleopatras
Bomb graffiti on the tomb of Nefertiti
MCs ain't ready to take it to the Serengeti
My rhymes is heavy like the mind of Sister Betty
L. Boogie spars with stars and constellations
Then came down for a little conversation
Adjacent to the king, fear no human being
Roll with cherubims to Nassau Coliseum
Now hear this mixture
Where hip hop meets scripture
Develop a negative into a positive picture





First, you must identify the allusion:

Abyssinia: historical name for Ethiopia, in Africa

Baptist: a Christian religion

Atlas: comes from Greek mythology!

Cleopatra: queen of ancient Egypt

Nefertiti: the Great Royal Wife of the Egyptian Pharaoh Amenhotep IV (later Akhenaten), and mother-in-law of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun.

Serengeti: the African grasslands

Sister Betty: (Betty Shabazz), Malcom X's wife

Nassau Coliseum: a musical venue in NY!





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.



Why did Lauryn Hill use those allusions in her song, 'Everything is Everything'?

The chorus of Lauryn Hill's song states, "What is meant to be will be...changes come eventually".

The allusions she used in her song remind us of ancient Africa, and important events in black history.

The statement she makes is about **roots** and about important changes for her people.



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?

