

**Example of a well-written constructed response:**

**Allusion gives the reader a connection to another story through the one they're reading. When Connell writes, "The Cossack was the cat; he was the mouse." (Connell 36), he refers to the hunt of everyday life that we all know—the game of cat and mouse, teasing, running, and suddenly the reader makes a connection: Rainsford is being played with by Zaroff. Connell also alludes to the Bible, for many people can connect to it. He names Zaroff's dog 'Lazarus', a man who died and was resurrected, to show the symbolism of Rainsford's own resurrection. These allusions create connections that help the reader better understand the story.**

**The Odyssey – Constructed Response Questions (CRQ)**

**Answer each of the following questions using the RACE strategy. Be sure to include properly-cited text evidence.**

- 1. How are women portrayed in *The Odyssey*? Which woman (or goddess) holds the most power and why?**
- 2. Homer starts the story in medias res. Evaluate whether this is an effective literary technique.**
- 3. How is justice defined for the characters in *The Odyssey*? Are revenge and retribution the only options?**
- 4. Is it possible for a modern reader to accept Odysseus's killing of the suitors? Explain your argument.**
- 5. What makes *The Odyssey* a timeless story? Evaluate whether there are suitable lessons that can be taken away from the story.**
- 6. How does Homer portray the relationship between the gods and the men in *The Odyssey*? What roles do the gods play in human life?**
- 7. Homer is able to portray many magical and fantastical aspects of Odysseus's adventures. How does he handle what we might call 'special effects'? How does he make the monsters fearsome, the goddesses stunning, the dangers frightening, etc.?**
- 8. Penelope chooses an often used social ritual to decide which suitor she will marry. Compare this to another example of a 'test' in literature.**
- 9. Homer is known for the 'epic similes' used in *The Odyssey*. Choose one of the similes and explain how it is used, why it is used, and the effect it has on the reader.**
- 10. Persuade another student to either read or avoid *The Odyssey*. Be sure to give several reasons and explanations to support your point. You must also include a counter-argument.**