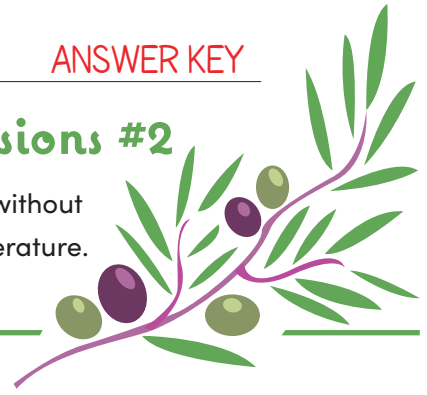


Name _____

Date _____ **ANSWER KEY**

Determine the Meaning of Common Allusions #2

An **allusion** is a word or phrase that hints at something or someone well known without directly mentioning the source. Allusions are often from mythology, history, or literature. An allusion lets you reference ideas from an entire story in just a few words.



Directions: Choose the correct meaning of the underlined allusion.

- After cooling down and realizing his role in the argument, Carter extended an olive branch and called his best friend to apologize.
a. showed a willingness to make peace
b. built up courage
- When Josiah's mother walked in as he was raiding the cookie jar before dinner, he froze as if he had just seen the face of Medusa.
a. something that turns someone to stone
b. something that causes guilt
- Every company wants to hire Corinne because she seems to have the Midas touch when it comes to developing innovative products.
a. a strong drive to help others
b. an ability to produce success
- Like many avid mountain climbers, Lily sees summiting Mount Everest as the holy grail of mountaineering.
a. a place to be feared and avoided
b. a difficult and highly sought-after goal
- Keira spent weeks redecorating her bedroom with calming colors, soft twinkle lights, and artistic touches so that the room would be her very own Garden of Eden.
a. a beautiful paradise
b. a place of worship
- Determined to outshine his competition, Diego flew too close to the sun when he performed a double back handspring without warming up, causing him to sprain his wrist.
a. became overheated
b. became overly ambitious

Directions: Write the meaning of the underlined allusion.

- Reese thought that fostering a litter of puppies would be a never-never land of cuddles and cuteness, but that was before she realized how mischievous puppies can be.

"Never-never land" is an idealized imaginary place or situation.

- Will had cried wolf so many times that no one even responded when he threatened to quit the hockey team.

"Cried wolf" means to have raised a false alarm.

★ **Bonus: Do you know where these allusions come from? On the back of this page, list the source of each allusion.**

1. the Bible
2. Greek mythology
3. Greek mythology
4. Medieval legend
5. the Bible
6. Greek mythology
7. literature (J.M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*)
8. literature (fable of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf")