

Determine the Meaning of Common Allusions

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.

- Macey realized she had gone down the rabbit hole when she began researching the origin of unicorn myths.
 - was on a bizarre or difficult pursuit with no real sense of how it will end
 - became wary of the next steps of a journey or exploration
- After spending a year exploring the rugged rivers of Colorado, Levi ended his odyssey by writing his guidebook, *A Complete Guide to Rafting Colorado's Rivers*.
 - a plan or schedule to accomplish a task
 - a long or difficult task with many obstacles
- Although the players were discouraged after their season-long losing streak, Coach Jensen vowed they would rise from the ashes to win the championship next season.
 - improve through extensive practice
 - come back after seeming lost or dead
- If Elena wanted to find a way to beat Hayden at trivia, she would have to find his Achilles' heel.
 - method of winning
 - hidden weakness
- Have you seen the heartwarming video of a good Samaritan helping a family of ducks cross the road?
 - helpful or charitable citizen
 - someone looking for praise or fame
- This year's baking contest is a David and Goliath scenario, with amateur baker Kaden facing off against his former mentor and celebrated pastry chef, Rasheed.
 - involving unequal rivals
 - involving a show of great skill

Directions: Write the meaning of the underlined allusion.

- Octavia isn't normally big on sweets, but when it comes to sharing Halloween candy, she's a real Scrooge.

someone who doesn't like to share possessions or spend money; someone who is greedy

- As I stared at the standstill traffic ahead of me, I wished I could simply click my heels and be fishing at the lake with my sisters.

to make something happen magically; to travel somewhere quickly and simply, as if by magic

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

- Literature (*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)
- Literature (Greek epic poem *The Odyssey*)
- Mythology (the phoenix)
- Greek Mythology
- The Bible
- The Bible
- Literature (*A Christmas Carol*)
- Literature (*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*)