

Name _____

Date _____

Make an Allusion

An **allusion** is an indirect reference to a person, place, event, or concept that is widely recognized and understood. It allows writers and speakers to evoke ideas or images without explicitly stating them, relying on the audience's familiarity with the reference. Allusions are often drawn from history, literature, religion, mythology, or popular culture.

Read each sentence carefully. Underline the words or phrases that include an allusion.

1. Candy is my kryptonite.
2. We can go as soon as Romeo finishes saying goodbye to Anna.
3. My new boyfriend has turned out to be a bit of a Scrooge.
4. Oh well, "Hakuna Matata," right?
5. We can't get Narcissus away from the mirror.
6. My college experience was a real Odyssey.
7. If I were you, I would not open that Pandora's box.
8. I felt like a Muggle in a room full of wizards.

Read each excerpt from a speech below. Identify the allusions and discuss what they reference.

Excerpt 1

"It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's

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assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces, but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes."

(Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address)

Excerpt 2

"Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty, but we can help those who do. And I can pledge this goal: when we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side."

(George W. Bush, 2000 Inaugural Address)

Excerpt 3

"And finally, a worldwide program of farm productivity and food distribution similar to our country's Food for Peace program could now give every child the food he needs. But man does not live by bread alone, and the members of this organization are committed by the Charter to promote and respect human rights."

(John F. Kennedy, Final United Nations Address)

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Make an Allusion – Answer Key

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(Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address)

Allusion: "Judge not that we be not judged" – Biblical reference to Matthew 7:1, urging people not to judge others.

Allusion: "The Almighty has His own purposes" – Refers to God's divine will and judgment.

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Allusion: "Wounded traveler on the road to Jericho" – Biblical reference to the parable of the Good Samaritan, symbolizing compassion and aid for those in need.

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