

||| Identifying Allusion |||

Allusion – reference in a work of literature to something outside the work

- **Always in the form of a capitalized, proper noun**
- Most common allusions reference one of three sources:
 - Mythology
 - History
 - The Bible
- Often used for comparison: look for overlap of traits

Example 1:

“I would move on by Greece and take my mind to Mount Olympus. And I would see Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Aristophanes assembled around the Parthenon. And I would watch them around the Parthenon as they discussed the great and eternal issues of reality. But I wouldn't stop there” (5).

-Excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s “I've Been to the Mountaintop” speech, delivered April 3rd, 1968

- Mythological Allusions: Mount Olympus,
 - Heavenly mountain kingdom of the Greek gods
- Historical Allusions:
 - Plato, Aristotle, Socrates: three famous ancient Greek philosophers
 - Euripides, Aristophanes: two famous ancient Greek playwrights, the former of tragedies and the latter of comedies.
 - Parthenon: famous temple in the Athenian Acropolis of ancient Greece

Example 2:

“He was eating a light supper at nine in the evening when the front door cried out in the hall and Mildred ran from the parlor like a native fleeing an eruption of Vesuvius” (89).

- Excerpt from Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*
- Historical Allusion: Mount Vesuvius
 - Famous volcano that steamrolled the ancient city of Pompeii in 79 A.D.