

9th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Allusion Example and Explanation

Task: Read Mythology by Edith Hamilton (ISBN 0316341517)
Research a mythological allusion and present it to the class.

Purpose: Many authors and poets frequently allude to well-known myths in their own writing. To understand the themes and characterizations in these works, students need to understand as many myths as possible.

Procedures:

- Choose an allusion from the list below
- Using at least two sources, one of which should be your Edith Hamilton book, research the allusion
- Using your own words, summarize the myth from which the allusion is derived.
- Write a short analysis of how the allusion is used in literature and life. Write a few example sentences utilizing the allusion properly.
- Find or create a visual representation of the myth.
- Present the allusion to the class. Use your visual and examples in your presentation (5 minute maximum).
- Turn the summary of your myth, analysis of the allusion with reference page, and visual to the teacher.
- Take notes on the other presentations.

To recap, you will turn in:

1. Summary of myth
2. Analysis of allusion with original examples, need a reference page
3. Visual representation of myth

Allusion List

1. Muse
2. Fate
3. Achilles' heel
4. Pandora's box
5. Midas touch
6. Harpy
7. Sisyphean task
8. Between Scylla and Charybdis
9. Siren song
10. Spartan measures
11. Draconian
12. Crossing the Rubicon
13. Greeks bearing gifts
14. Furious
15. Promethean cunning
16. Bacchanalian
17. Herculean
18. Colossal
19. Tantalizing
20. Nemesis
21. Titanic
22. Protean
23. Saturnine
24. Mercurial

Example Allusion Assignment

April Noke

Period 4

The allusion: An odyssey

The myth of Odysseus

After the Trojan War has ended, the great hero Odysseus leaves Troy with his men. They are going to sail back to their homeland in Greece. This should be a relatively short journey. However, because Odysseus disrespected one of the Gods, his trip becomes much more difficult and ends up taking him years to complete. Along the way Odysseus meets many people and creatures and is faced with many conflicts. He must learn how to overcome these obstacles. It is not until he has satisfied the Gods that he finally makes it home. The word Odyssey comes from the main character's name, Odysseus

The Allusion in life and literature today

Today we hear people talk about going on an odyssey. This means a long voyage full of adventure and excitement. Similarly, an odyssey of the mind is an event or idea that changes the way we think or perceive the world around us.

Example sentences

As we put up the sails on our catamaran, I couldn't help but wonder about the odyssey that awaited us.

The amazing new concept my physics teacher taught us, turned out to be an odyssey from which my mind has yet to fully recover.

Works Cited

Hamilton, Edith. Mythology. New York: Warner Books, 1942.

Skidmore, Joel. Mythweb. Odysseus. Fleet Gazelle. 1993-2013. 20 Aug. 2013.