



Allusion

An allusion is an indirect reference to something. When you make an allusion, you call something to mind without specifically mentioning it. The reference can be to a person, place, or thing from real life or from history, literature, or popular culture. You can also allude to a quality that thing represents. The thing being referenced is sufficiently well known that the writer or speaker can be confident that their audience will “get” the reference. As a rhetorical advice, allusion allows writers and speakers to get across complex emotions, thoughts, and ideas quickly by tapping into things that the reader or audience already knows and understands.

EXAMPLE: "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)

“Man does not live by bread alone” is a Biblical allusion from Deuteronomy 8:2-3.

DIRECTIONS: Read the assigned text. Identify an/the allusion.

Quote the Allusion

It alludes to:

The effect is:

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