

The background features a vibrant blue sky with stylized white and blue clouds in the upper left. A large, bright yellow sun is partially visible in the upper right corner. A sleek, silver pen with a blue clip is positioned diagonally across the center of the image. Below the pen, a dark blue, rounded rectangular banner contains the text "Literary Term: Allusion" in white, sans-serif font. The overall design is clean and modern, suitable for an educational presentation.

Literary Term: Allusion



What is an allusion?

An allusion is a reference, within a literary work, to another work of fiction, a film, famous person, pop culture, a piece of art, or even a real event. Allusions are commonly made to the Bible, nursery rhymes, myths, famous fictional or historical characters or events, and Shakespeare. Allusion means 'reference'. It relies on the reader being able to understand the allusion and being familiar with all of the meaning hidden behind the words.



Allusion Vs. Illusion

Don't confuse the word allusion with illusion.

- An **allusion** is a reference to something
- An **illusion** is something misleading or open to misinterpretation



Why do authors use allusions?

Allusions in writing help the reader to visualize the characters, the setting, and the plot by creating a mental picture. But the reader must be aware of the allusion and must be familiar with what it alludes to.



Allusion Examples

- As the cave's roof collapsed, he was swallowed up in the dust like Jonah, and only his frantic scrabbling behind a wall of rock indicated that there was anyone still alive.
- Christy didn't like to spend money. She was no Scrooge, but she seldom purchased anything except the bare necessities.
- Like the prodigal son, he returned to his home town and was welcomed by all who knew him.



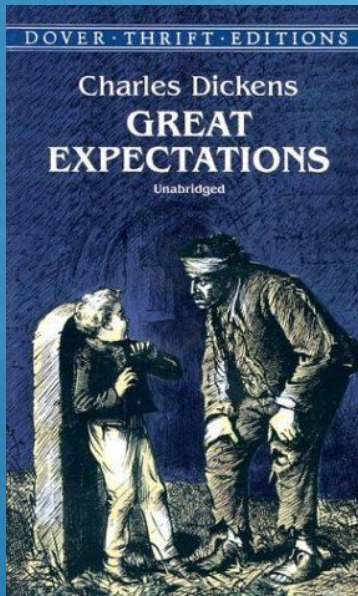
Allusion Examples



Literary Allusions in *The Outsiders*

“I was still thinking about it while I was doing my homework that night. I had to read **Great Expectations** for English, and that kid **Pip**, he reminded me of us—the way he felt marked lousy because he wasn’t a gentleman or anything, and the way that girl kept looking down on him...”
(page 15)

Literary Allusions in *The Outsiders*



Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* tells the story of Pip, an English orphan who rises to wealth, deserts his true friends, and becomes humbled by his own arrogance. Charles Dickens sets *Great Expectations* during the time that England was becoming a wealthy world power. Machines were making factories more productive, yet people lived in awful conditions, and such themes carry into the story.



Literary Allusions in *The Outsiders*

“I looked fearfully over my shoulder and there was Two-Bit, grinning like a **Chessy cat**...” (page 27)

Literary Allusions in *The Outsiders*



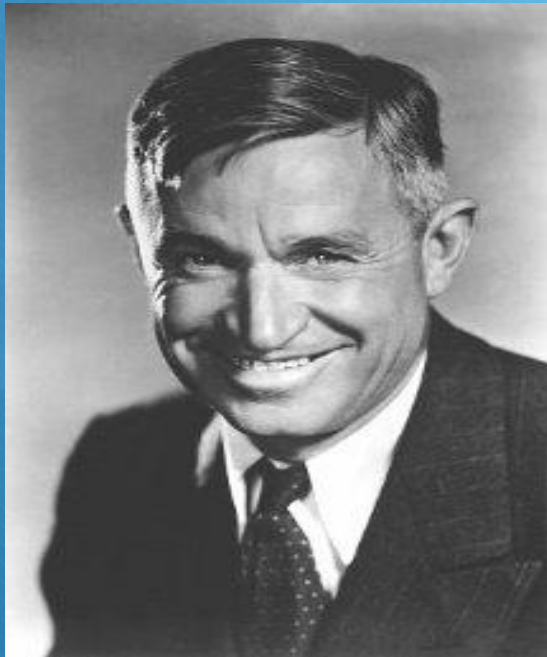
The Cheshire cat, is an always grinning, cheerful cat in Lewis Carroll's book *Alice in Wonderland*.

A decorative header featuring a bright yellow sun with a blue outline, partially obscured by stylized blue and white clouds. The background is a solid blue gradient.

Pop Culture Allusions in *The Outsiders*

“...he was always smarting off to the cops. He really couldn’t help it. Everything he said was so irresistibly funny that he just had to let the police in on it to brighten up their dull lives. (That’s the way he explained it to me.) ...I liked him real well because he kept us laughing at ourselves as well as at other things. He reminded me of **Will Rogers**—maybe it was the grin.” (page 10)

Pop Culture Allusions in *The Outsiders*



World-famous, widely popular American humorist of the stage and of silent and sound films



Pop Culture Allusions in *The Outsiders*

“When I stepped out into the bright sunlight from the darkness of the movie house, I had only two things on my mind: **Paul Newman** and a ride home. I was wishing I looked like **Paul Newman—he looks tough** and I don’t—but I guess my own looks aren’t so bad.” (page 1)

Pop Culture Allusions in *The Outsiders*



Screen legend,
superstar, and the
man with the most
famous blue eyes in
movie history

Now, it's your turn!

Write one sentence with an allusion that will help us visualize something.

For example: Her coy smile rivaled that of the **Mona Lisa**.

