

## AP Literature- Optional Allusions Research

Allusions are references in literature to other works, events, people, or places. Knowing some of the most common allusions is helpful when analyzing literature-as these references are purposeful you know they must add something important to the meaning of the text!

Research unfamiliar terms, write a paragraph analysis of each with proper citations-practice that skill-and be sure to have the following in your analysis:

- **A brief origin of the term/ phrase-** what is the history/ story surrounding the term, where did the story originate? An explanation as to what the term/ phrase means. **Explain the current use of this term. Note: this is a research based assignment; you should only use scholarly sources and use the [OWL](#) at Purdue MLA instructions for citations.**
- **Useful sources :** The Bible, Edith Hamilton’s Mythology, Bulfinch’s Mythology, literary databases/encyclopedias (Bloom’s and the like)
- **Unacceptable and often unreliable sources :** Wikipedia, Sparknotes, LitCharts and the like, movies, television shows.

### Allusion List

| Literary                       | Mythological                 | Biblical                          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Pollyanna                   | 1. Prometheus/ promethean    | 1. manna in the desert            |
| 2. albatross around one’s neck | 2. Medusa                    | 2. the golden calf                |
| 3. Faust/ Faustian bargain     | 3. Sisyphus/ Sisyphean       | 3. turn the other cheek           |
| 4. Lothario                    | 4. Phoenix                   | 4. the blind leading the blind    |
| 5. malapropism                 | 5. Bacchanal/ bacchanalian   | 5. walk on water                  |
| 6. Lolita                      | 6. Narcissus/ narcissism     | 6. the good Samaritan             |
| 7. milquetoast                 | 7. Tantalus/ tantalize       | 7. the prodigal son               |
| 8. Svengali                    | 8. The Furies                | 8. Cain and Abel                  |
| 9. Scheherazade                | 9. Pandora’s box             | 9. the wedding feast at Cana      |
| 10. Catch-22                   | 10. Sirens                   | 10. Sodom and Gomorrah            |
| 11. Kafkaesque                 | 11. Electra/ Electra complex | 11. the death of John the Baptist |
| 12. Don Juan                   | 12. Oedipus/ Oedipal complex | 12. the plagues of Egypt          |
| 13. Mad woman in the attic     | 13. Pyrrhic victory          | 13. Doubting Thomas               |
| 14. Quixotic                   | 14. Tiresias                 | 14. Song of Solomon               |
| 15. Big Brother                | 15. Pan                      | 15. Tower of Babel                |

## AP Literature- Optional FRQ Response Analysis

Read through the sample responses to FRQs 1, 2, and 3 from 2019. As you read, complete the following template for each response. Then review the AP Reader responses and complete the templates with notes about what made a response either a strong one with a high score or a weak one with a low score.

Claim:

Evidence:

MOWAW (meaning of the work as a whole):

Reader Response Notes:

## FRQs & Reader Responses:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap19-apc-english-literature-q1.pdf>

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap19-apc-english-literature-q2.pdf>

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap19-apc-english-literature-q3.pdf>