



Definition

- Allusion: an indirect and usually brief reference to a person, place, or event.
- This reference is probably explicit, but its meaning can be understood only if the person, place, or event is well known by all or known by the reader.
- An allusion can help the reader develop their understanding of the theme of the book, or bring up a new theme based on that small reference.



Purpose

- We, as readers, need to know what allusions are so we can identify them in our reading.
- We need to be able to recognize allusions in the books we read because they are usually important in our overall understanding of the book.
- For example, if the name of a character was an allusion to a different character in another literary work, that similarity could reveal something about the character that we wouldn't have known if we hadn't found the allusion.