

AP English Literature Summer Assignment: Biblical Allusion

Below is a list of terms, phrases, and people frequently alluded to by writers. For each one:

1. give a standard biblical reference; include the book, the chapter, and verse(s),
2. give a brief explanation of the allusion,
3. find a use of the allusion other than in the Bible, and
4. explain how the biblical quotation and the allusion relate.

Ex. Am I my brother's keeper?

Meaning: In Genesis 4: 9 God asks Cain, a son of Adam and Eve, where his brother is. Both Cain and God know that Cain has him. But Cain acts as if he does not know and replies, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Use of quote as allusion: A 1992 movie titled *Brother's Keeper* is about four very poor brothers. This documentary focuses on the alleged murder in June 1990 of 64-year-old Bill Ward by his brother Delbert, 59, a simple dairy farmer whose defense became a rallying cause for the citizens of Munnsville, a tiny farming community in central New York. Known by all of Munnsville as harmless hermits, the Ward brothers (also including Lyman and Roscoe) live an 18th-century lifestyle in their tiny, grimy shack, sleeping in the same bed through cold winters and tending daily to their hayfields and livestock. Semiliterate and stunted by minimal exposure to the outside world, the Wards are disheveled children in the bodies of aging men; and when Delbert is charged with suffocating his ailing brother Bill, he's a prime target for legal manipulation and a media circus that's immediately drawn to his case.

Relationship between quotation and allusion: Although the movie, unlike the story of Cain and Able, does not have one brother killing the other out of jealousy, the idea of being one's brother's keeper comes into play as one brother attempts to end the suffering of and take responsibility for his suffering brother.

5. Create your own cartoon implementing a biblical **or** classical allusion. (No larger than a notebook sheet of paper)

Due Date: First day of class. Do not wait until the last minute. Be prepared to be tested over the allusions the first week of class.

1. Am I my brother's keeper?
2. Ask and it shall be given you
3. In the beginning
4. Coat of many colors
5. Cast thy bread upon the waters
6. Crown of thorns

7. The lions' den
8. Let the dead bury their dead
9. Do unto others
10. Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return
11. Doubting Thomas
12. An eye for an eye
13. Father, forgive them
14. The fatted calf
15. Forbidden fruit
16. Four horsemen
17. By their fruits ye shall know them
18. Get thee behind me
19. It is more blessed to give than to receive
20. Go the extra mile
21. Golden calf
22. Good Samaritan
23. The writing on the wall
24. He that is not with me is against me
25. Jacob's ladder
26. Jezebel
27. Judas Iscariot
28. Judge not, let yet be judged
29. Judgment day
30. The lamb shall lie down with the lion
31. A land flowing with milk and honey
32. The last shall be first
33. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone
34. Let there be light
35. Consider the lilies of the field
36. Loaves and fishes
37. Lot's wife
38. Man shall not live by bread alone
39. Many are called, but few are chosen
40. The meek shall inherit the earth
41. Why hast thou forsaken me?
42. No man can serve two masters
43. Nothing new under the sun
44. Original sin
45. Pearls before swine
46. Prodigal son
47. The Promised Land
48. A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country
49. Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's
50. Second coming
51. Thirty pieces of silver
52. Through a glass darkly
53. A time to be born and a time to die
54. Turn the other cheek
55. Walking on water
56. Whither thou goest, I will go.

from Cynthia Cox
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