

ALLUSIONS

Name _____

Each set of sentences below contains an allusion. Identify the allusion, then explain what the author wants you to understand from the allusion.

EX: "I don't know if this store carries shoes in your size, Sasquatch," my dad joked when we went shopping for another new pair of shoes, my second pair in two months.

Allusion: Sasquatch

Meaning: Legend says Sasquatch is huge; dad means the child's feet are big.

1. Doug showed off his new gold watch to his friend Rachel. "Nice watch, Jay Z!" Rachel gushed.

Allusion: _____

Meaning: _____

2. I hoped to sign the birthday card our team bought for Coach, but I couldn't find a spot to sign my name because someone went all John Hancock on it and signed his name across the whole card.

Allusion: _____

Meaning: _____

3. We were all starry-eyed as we stepped into the doctor's mansion. "I don't think Buckingham Palace is as fancy as this house!" Mom gasped under her breath.

Allusion: _____

Meaning: _____

4. He poured his heart out in the love letter to his girlfriend. The letter was as poetic as if Shakespeare himself had written it.

Allusion: _____

Meaning: _____

5. I poured myself a cup of coffee in the teacher's lounge and took a sip. It wasn't Starbucks, but the jolt of hot, steamy caffeine helped wake me up.

Allusion: _____

Meaning: _____

6. The three-year-old jumped out of the tub, leaving murky, dingy water in his wake. Staring into the tub, his dad exclaimed, "Wowza. It's like the Boston Tea Party in there."

Allusion: _____

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Allusion: Sasquatch

Meaning: Legend says Sasquatch is huge; dad means the child's feet are big.

1. Doug showed off his new gold watch to his friend Rachel. "Nice watch, Jay Z!" Rachel gushed.

Allusion: Jay Z

Meaning: Jay Z is a rapper who wears a lot of "bling". She means his watch is flashy.

2. I hoped to sign the birthday card our team bought for Coach, but I couldn't find a spot to sign my name because someone went all John Hancock on it and signed his name across the whole card.

Allusion: John Hancock
John Hancock signed his name to the Declaration of Independence in large

Meaning: letters and with a giant flourish. He means that the person signed his name
really big.

3. We were all ^{really big}starry-eyed as we stepped into the doctor's mansion. "I don't think Buckingham Palace is as fancy as this house!" Mom gasped under her breath.

Allusion: Buckingham Palace

Meaning: Buckingham Palace is a castle; Mom means that the doctor's house is
expensive and glamorous.

4. He poured his heart out in the love letter to his girlfriend. The letter was as poetic as if Shakespeare himself had written it.

Allusion: Shakespeare

Meaning: Shakespeare was famous for his romantic sonnets; he means the letter was
romantic and well-written.

5. I poured myself a cup of coffee in the teacher's lounge and took a sip. It wasn't Starbucks, but the jolt of hot, steamy caffeine helped wake me up.

Allusion: Starbucks

Meaning: Starbucks is well-known for its delicious coffee; the author means the
school's coffee wasn't that delicious.

6. The three-year-old jumped out of the tub, leaving murky, dingy water in his wake. Staring into the tub, his dad exclaimed, "Wowsa. It's like the Boston Tea Party in there."

Allusion: Boston Tea Party
1,000's of gallons of tea were dumped into the bay during the Boston Tea

Meaning: Party; he means the water was really brown.