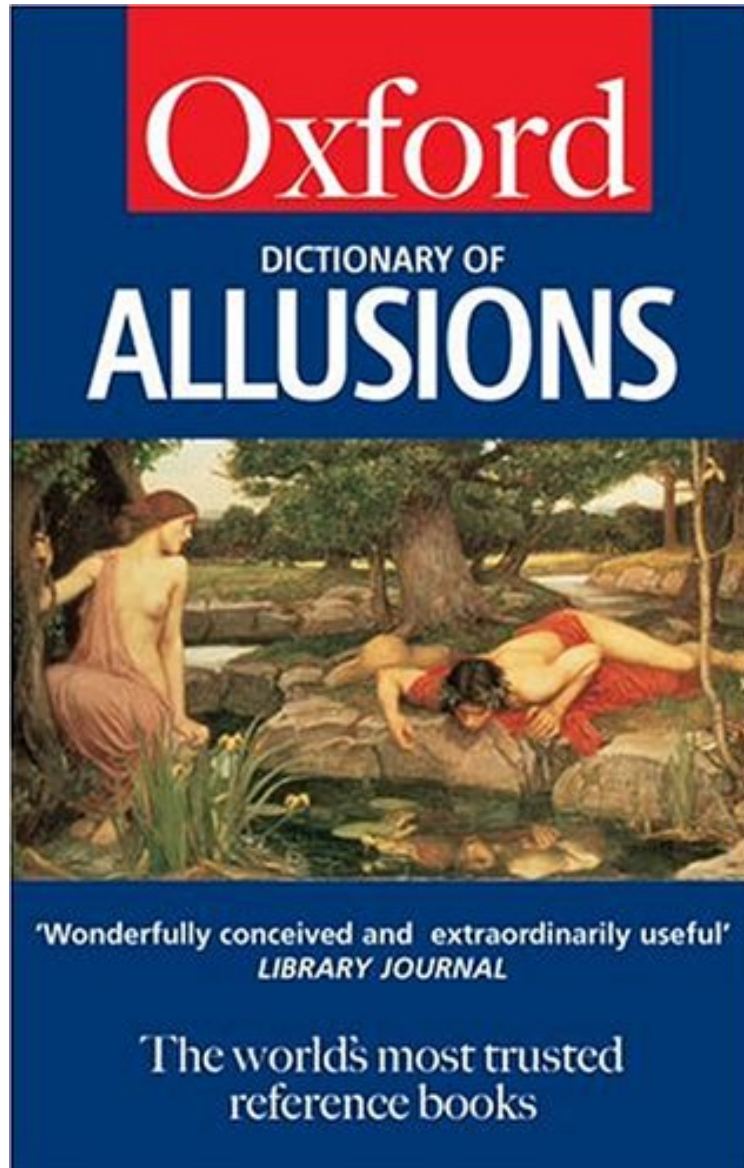


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## A Dictionary of Allusions (Oxford Quick Reference)

*Andrew Delahunty, Sheila Dignen, Penelope Stock*  
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**Andrew Delahunty, Sheila Dignen, Penelope Stock : A Dictionary of Allusions (Oxford Quick Reference)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Dictionary of Allusions (Oxford Quick Reference):

13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. References, NOT AllusionsBy Nathan KingWhile this book has many interesting tidbits of information that may make their way into writing, they are most definitely not allusions. At

best they are simply literary REFERENCES and therefore this book provides little beyond what you would find in a typical encyclopedia entry about the keyword. Who was Ahab, Frodo, Medusa, etc. Where is hell, Olympus, or Narnia. What was manna and so on. Unfortunately, the examples follow the same pattern. Whereas an allusion is indirect and subtle, the examples in this book are direct and explicit references to the keywords (ie "He was crazy like Ahab," instead of something like a subtle quotation from Moby Dick suggesting the character of Ahab). I got this book mainly for the examples in order to see the different ways allusions have been used, but all the examples are simply examples of literary references, not allusions. 7 of 9 people found the following review helpful. waking our language By Nan Runyon The day the Oxford Dictionary of Allusions arrived, I unwrapped it, poured a cup of coffee, and took it and my cup of coffee out to the patio where I opened it randomly. The first entry I saw was *Worzel Gummidge*. Now, I can use that. I am working on a character sketch of a locally known celeb of sorts, and have been searching for just the right word... the picture to put in the reader's mind. And there it is. Perfect. Never heard of it before. Another entry that caught my eye as I flipped through the pages was *Mrs. Malaprop*. I have been teased for years. "Turn off the cat and put out the light", I said once when the family was going out the door. Nobody ever told me I was making malapropisms. I love our language, but sometimes it gets stale, repetitious. We become lazy, use the same old expressions, and forget the countless colorful idioms that can dance in our imaginations. You cannot put this book down. You will find old favorite words you've forgotten and many new ones you may never have known. Your heart will be happier, your conversations more inspiring. I'm going to get another cup of coffee and go back to painting the Forth Bridge. If you want to know what that means, buy this book and look it up. 9 of 31 people found the following review helpful. Limited By Bert Wiefels The Oxford Dictionary of Allusions is limited in content. I would have preferred something more complete.

Allusions are a colorful extension of the English Language, drawing on our collective knowledge of literature, mythology, and The Bible give us a literary shorthand for describing people, places, and events. This completely new reference work explains the meanings of the allusions in use in modern English, from *Abaddon* to *Zorro*, *Tartarus* to *Tarzan*, and *Rubens* to *Rambo*. It is based on an extensive reading program that has identified the most commonly-used allusions. Quotations from a range of authors and sources are included at most entries to illustrate usage-- anywhere from *Thomas Hardy* to *Ben Elton*, *Charles Dickens* to '*Bridget Jones's Diary*'.

From School Library Journal Adult/High School-This volume arranges literary, mythological, biblical, and popular references by theme. A line or two introduces each subject noting common associations, and/or scope of the entries that follow. "Nonconformity" includes brief entries on *Bohemia*, *Holden Caulfield*, *James Dean*, *Galileo*, and other characters and individuals. Many of these entries are accompanied by an excerpt illustrating its use in a work of literature (with author, title, and date). "Abundance and Plenty," "Change," "Destiny and Luck," "Freedom," and "Time" are just a few of the broad topics examined. There are also some in-depth discussions of allusions to *Don Quixote*, *Odysseus*, *Achilles*, the *Trojan War*, *Moses*, and other characters, events, and concepts. One of these covers *David*, describing the Old Testament hero's battle with *Goliath*, his relationship with *Bathsheba*, and the rebellion of *Absalom*, while cross-references will lead readers to other related entries. A list of the topics examined is given in the front of the book. Students will find using this resource similar to working with a thesaurus and will appreciate the simplicity of the dual index containing both themes and references. Purchase as an aid to creative writing and literary analysis. Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Wonderfully conceived and extraordinarily useful, this new literary dictionary has been created by a team of freelance lexicographers who have compiled many dictionaries, and their experience shows. The contents have been drawn from a wide-ranging reading program designed to identify the allusions encountered most frequently in literature both modern and canonical. Thus, it covers classical myths and modern culture and ranges from "Ahab" to "Teflon," "Eve" to "Darth Vader." The dictionary is alphabetical but can be searched both by the word used as an allusion and by the theme represented. The dictionary is particularly well laid out, with the major theme of the allusion captioned and explained, followed by the words representing that allusion. Many entries include a quotation illustrating the allusion in use. For allusions based on names, the editors have added explanatory sections describing who these figures were and why they and/or their stories represent various themes. What results is a supremely useful dictionary that is highly recommend for all libraries. Neal Wyatt, Chesterfield P.L., VA Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. ` from previous edition Wonderfully conceived and extraordinarily useful' Library Journal `an attractive addition to a writer's shelf of Reference works' US Universal Press syndication `A brilliantly organized handbook of names, places and phrases...A highly readable text' Choice