

# Allusion Exercise

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Read each passage below. Then do the following:

1. Underline the portion of the passage that contains the allusion.
2. Figure out what the source of the allusion is.
3. Tell what the writer was trying to say using the allusion.

1. *It was a David and Goliath matchup when I.U. played Ohio State in Bloomington this weekend. In the end, though, the unranked Hoosiers' sling shot cut down the #1 ranked Buckeyes.*

**SOURCE OF THE ALLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_

What point is the writer making by using this allusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. *The Darth Vaders of the school district, the seven men and women who make up the school board, voted last night to cut all extracurricular programs in order to balance the district's budget. That means no sports, no plays, no band.*

**SOURCE OF THE ALLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_

What point is the writer making by using this allusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. *As the group of students from Hagerstown High School got off the bus in New York City for the field trip, freshman Sally Johnson looked around in amazement and said to no one in particular, "Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore."*

**SOURCE OF THE ALLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_

What point is the writer making by using this allusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. *It didn't take the students long to find the new teacher's Achilles' heel. Any time one of them earned a low grade, the student would suddenly burst into tears and sob uncontrollably. The naive rookie teacher would take pity on the poor student and instantly raise the grade.*

**SOURCE OF THE ALLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_

What point is the writer making by using this allusion? \_\_\_\_\_

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