

Name:

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Allusions

Directions: Identify the allusions in the following statements and explain their significance.

1. "Nothing Gold Can Stay" (1923) by Robert Frost
Then leaf subsides to leaf. So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day. Nothing gold can stay.

2. George W. Bush 2000 Inaugural Address:

"Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty, but we can listen to those who do. And I can pledge our nation to a goal: When we see that wounded traveler on the road to Jericho, we will not pass to the other side."

John F. Kennedy's Final United Nations Address:

"And finally, a worldwide program of farm productivity and food distribution, similar to our country's 'Food for Peace' program could, now, give every child the food he needs. But man does not live by bread alone, and the members of this organization are committed by the Charter to promote and respect human rights."

Answers:

1) When the poem says, "So Eden sank to grief," it's referring to the idea that Eden, the paradise where Adam and Eve lived, was lost when they were expelled from it due to their disobedience and sin. The concept of Eden symbolizes a state of innocence, perfection, and beauty that was fleeting and couldn't last. The poem uses this allusion to convey the idea that all things of beauty and perfection, like the "gold" mentioned in the poem, are also transient and cannot last forever. This allusion adds depth and meaning to the poem by drawing on a well-known biblical narrative to underscore the theme of impermanence and the fleeting nature of beauty and perfection.

2) The allusion in the message is to the "Good Samaritan" story from the Bible, which is found in the Gospel of Luke, specifically in Luke 10:25-37. In the story, a traveler is attacked, robbed, and left for dead on the road to Jericho. Several people pass by without helping him, but a Samaritan, traditionally seen as a member of a despised and marginalized group, stops to care for the wounded man, showing compassion and mercy. The story has become a symbol of compassionate and selfless behavior, and it emphasizes the idea of helping those in need, regardless of their background or circumstances.

George W. Bush's reference to the "wounded traveler on the road to Jericho" is an allusion to this biblical story. He uses it to convey the idea that the United States should be a compassionate and caring nation, willing to help those who are in need and not "pass to the other side" or ignore their suffering. It's a way of emphasizing the importance of empathy, charity, and national unity in addressing the issues of poverty and suffering.

3) The allusion in John F. Kennedy's final United Nations address is to the biblical passage found in the New Testament, specifically in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus says, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Kennedy's reference to "Man does not live by bread alone" is a direct allusion to this biblical verse. In the context of his speech, Kennedy is emphasizing that while addressing issues of food distribution and ensuring that every child has enough to eat is crucial, it's not the only aspect of human well-being. He suggests that human rights, as outlined in the United Nations Charter, are equally important. In other words, he's highlighting the idea that human beings need more than just physical sustenance; they also need their rights and dignity to be respected and protected. This allusion adds depth to his message and underscores the importance of both material and moral aspects of well-being.

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