**Coming of Age Novel Assignment**

You must select one novel of literary merit that can be considered a ‘coming of age novel.’ You will then read and take notes on the novel you selected (one page per chapter). We will discuss and write about your chosen novel at the start of the school year. You will also make a short presentation on both a biblical and mythological allusion.

**Novel List for Coming of Age Novels:**

- A River Runs Through It, Norman MacLean
- The Adventures of Augie March
- Cat's Eye, Margaret Atwood
- All the Pretty Horses, Cormac McCarthy
- Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy
- Atonement, Ian McEwen
- The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
- Great Expectations, Dickens
- The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho
- The Catcher in the Rye, J.D. Salinger
- The Chosen, Chaim Potok
- The Color Purple, Alice Walker
- David Copperfield, Charles Dickens
- A Farewell to Arms, Ernest Hemingway
- Go Tell It on the Mountain, James Baldwin
- The God of Small Things, Arundhati Roy
- The Grapes of Wrath, John Steinbeck
- The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, Carson McCullers
- *The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros
- The Joys of Motherhood, Buchi Emecheta
- The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde
- A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, James Joyce
- Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
- The Remains of the Day, Kazuo Ishiguro
- *A Separate Peace, John Knowles
- Summer, Edith Wharton
- The Sorrows of Young Werther, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou
- *Books are available in our library.

**Coming of Age Novel Assignment: Your annotations should address the following ideas**

- Every Trip is a Quest - The real reason for a quest is always self-knowledge...
  
  In the novel, what is the quest? Choose a character and explain how he/she gains self-knowledge.

- It’s More Than Just Rain or Snow - It’s never just rain...
  
  Choose a scene where weather or the environment is more than what it seems and explain the significance.

- Marked for Greatness - How many stories do you know in which the hero is different from everyone else in some way...
  
  Who is the hero in the novel? How do you know he/she is the hero? Is there a visible, physical difference between the hero and other characters?

- Don’t Read with Your Eyes. Take the works as they were intended to be taken...
  
  Choose several quotes that reflect the overall meaning of the work. What did you glean from this reading experience?
Biblical/Mythological Allusion Assignment

Much of the reading you will do in AP English will require an understanding of common biblical and classical allusions. These allusions add depth of meaning to poems, essays, and stories. When you miss the allusion, you sometimes miss the point and almost always miss the joke. Understanding allusions lets you into a kind of “secret club” where the subtleties and literary undercurrents enrich both your comprehension and enjoyment. Really! We all know that it is inconvenient and awkward to stop reading and look up an allusion, so you frequently don’t bother. Sometimes, you don’t even know there is an allusion in the piece, and you are just left wondering why the author said his or her idea so oddly. You sort of recognize something is going on but don’t know what. This summer, you will begin to prepare yourself for the inside track of understanding. You will come to class in September having your familiarity with common allusions greatly expanded. We will add to these lists as we work together all year.

Allusion – A direct or indirect reference to something which is presumably commonly known, such as an event, book, myth, place or work of art. Allusions can be historical (as in a reference to Hitler), literary (as in a reference to Kurtz in Heart of Darkness), biblical (as in a reference to Noah and the flood), or classical (as in a reference to Atlas). There are, of course, many more possibilities, and a work may simultaneously use multiple layers of allusion.

Most of you are aware of the Bible as a religious text, but it is also widely recognized as a great work of literature. And it is one of the key foundation texts for much of Western literature of the past 2,000 years. However, my experience is that many students have little knowledge of the book. Your reading in the Bible will cover books that have great literary merit (especially in the King James Version) and that have informed many of the greatest works of Western literature.

Allusion Assignment:

Choose five of the biblical allusions and five of the mythological allusions. Then record your findings in the manner below. You will be making short presentations in class during the first week to help each other learn all of the allusions below.

Biblical Allusions

Adam's Rib                    Harden your heart
Golden Rule                    Jonah and the whale
Alpha and Omega                Lamb of the slaughter
Am I my brother's Keeper?      Let my people go
Ark of the Covenant            Loaves and fishes
Ashes to ashes, dust to dust   Manna from Heaven
Babel                          Mark of Cain
Be fruitful and multiply       Methuselah
Break bread                    Noah's Ark
Burning bush                   Out of the mouth of babes
By their fruits shall ye know them Parting of the waters
Camel through the eye of a needle Prodigal son
Cast the first stone           Seven Pillars of Wisdom
Water into wine                Sodom and Gomorrah
Chariot of fire                Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof
Consider the lilies of the field Thirty pieces of silver
Crown the thorns               This my body
David and Goliath              Tree of Knowledge
Daniel and the Lion's den      Turn the other cheek
Doubting Thomas                Valley of the shadow of death
Eye for eye, tooth for tooth   Voice crying in the wilderness
Forty days and forty nights    Way of all flesh
Four horsemen of the Apocalypse Who lives by the sword shall die by the sword
Gain the whole world but lose your own soul Wisdom of Solomon
Gold, Frankincense, and myrrh   Words made flesh

BIBLICAL REFERENCES MADE ABOVE

Numbers 31:10-18
1 Samuel 17:4, 8-9; Isaiah 40:1-3; Daniel 6:16; Proverbs 9:1; Joshua 23:14; 1 Kings 3:16-28
Luke 6:29, 10:30-34, 15:11-15
Revelation 1:7-8, 11, 5:1-10, 6
2 Kings 2:9-12
Jonah 1:2
Psalms Nos. 8, 22, 23

**Classical/ Mythological Allusions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allusion</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Explanation/Summary</th>
<th>Literary Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aphrodite and Adonis</td>
<td>Judgment of Paris</td>
<td>Achilles Heel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apollo and the Python</td>
<td>King Midas and the Golden Touch</td>
<td>Amazon</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Argus-eyed</td>
<td>Muse</td>
<td>Hypnos</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Athena and Poseidon Vie for Athens</td>
<td>Labors of Hercules</td>
<td>Heraclean</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Atlanta the Athlete of Greece</td>
<td>Nike</td>
<td>Cupid</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacchalian</td>
<td>Nemesis</td>
<td>Ira</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Birth of Zeus and the Defeat of Cronus</td>
<td>Nine Muses</td>
<td>Labyrinth</td>
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<td>Cassandra</td>
<td>Odysseus and the Trojan Horse</td>
<td>Venus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Persephone and Demeter</td>
<td>Pandora’s Box</td>
<td>Oedipus</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scylla and Charybdis</td>
<td>Paean</td>
<td>Homer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chimera</td>
<td>Paris and the Golden Apple</td>
<td>Spartans</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clytemnestra’s Revenge on Agamemnon</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td>Titans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creation of the World and Mankind</td>
<td>Protean</td>
<td>Phoenix</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Echo and Narcissus</td>
<td>Pyramus and Thisbe</td>
<td>Paean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faithful Penelope</td>
<td>Pygmalion and Galatea</td>
<td>Hermeine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordion Knot</td>
<td>Zeus’ Infidelity</td>
<td>Demeter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hera Gives Birth to Typhaon</td>
<td>Psyche Gazes at Sleeping Cupid</td>
<td>Chaos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tantalus and Ixion and Sisyphus and Cereberus</td>
<td>Hyppolyta and the Girdle</td>
<td>Charon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Moirae or Fates</td>
<td>Sword of Damocles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daedalus and Icarus</td>
<td>River of Hades</td>
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For each allusion chosen include the following information on a large index card.

**Allusion:**

**Origin:**

**Explanation/Summary:** Literary Example:

**Personal Connection/Current Societal Example:**

**Source:** See example below:

**Allusion:** Protean

**Origin:** Classical/Mythological Greek Mythology

**Explanation/Summary:** The word “Protean” comes from the Mythical Greek Sea God “Proteus,” who was best known for 1) predicting and foretelling the future and 2) his versatility and adaptability to acclimate himself to successfully meet and thrive in the future he envisioned.

**Literary example:** According to Homer (Odyssey iv:412), the sandy island of Pharos situated off the coast of the Nile Delta was the home of Proteus, the oracular Old Man of the Sea and herdsman of the sea-beasts. In the Odyssey, Menelaus relates to Telemachus that he had been becalmed here on his journey home from the Trojan War. He learned from Proteus' daughter, Eidothea (“the very image of the Goddess”), that if he could capture her father he could force him to reveal which of the gods he had offended, and how he could propitiate them and return home. Proteus emerged from the sea to sleep among his colony of seals, but Menelaus was successful in holding him, though Proteus took the forms of a lion, a serpent, a leopard, a pig, even of water or a tree. Proteus then answered truthfully, further informing Menelaus that his brother Agamemnon had been murdered on his return home, that Ajax the Lesser had been shipwrecked and killed, and that Odysseus was stranded on Calypso's Isle Ogygia.

**Personal Connection/Current Societal Example:** From ages 18 to 46 twenty-six percent held 15 jobs. The Protean Career is a concept that requires everyone to 1) monitor and assess the job market; 2) anticipate future developments, trends, and industry shifts, 3) gain the necessary skills, qualifications, relationships, and assets to meet the shifts, and 4) adapt quickly to thrive in an ever-changing workplace. In today’s transformational, constantly changing workplace, everyone must master the strengths of Proteus!

**Sources:**
Check out this example by Devin Lanier from October of 2013  http://prezi.com/dscoeqn9h3mj/biblical-allusion-assignment/