Name: Date: Score: / 8

# Allusion and Irony: Learn and Practice

Spot famous references and surprising twists

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

**Allusion and Irony**

- An allusion is a quick reference to a well known story, myth or event.
- Verbal irony is saying the opposite of what you mean, and situational irony is when the opposite of what we expect happens.
- Dramatic irony is when the audience knows something a character does not.
- Calling a strong friend a Hercules is an allusion to a myth.

**1** What is an allusion?

A. a reference to a famous story or event

B. a comparison using like or as

C. a word with the opposite meaning

D. a word that sounds like its meaning

**2** Kai calls his tiny little brother a Goliath. Which two devices are used?

A. alliteration and simile B. simile and rhyme

C. dramatic irony and rhyme

D. allusion and verbal irony

**3** The audience knows a villain hides behind the door, but the hero does not. This is...

A. dramatic irony B. an allusion C. verbal irony

D. situational irony

**4** Calling a long journey an odyssey alludes to what?

A. an ancient Greek epic poem B. a popular song

C. a famous painting D. a modern science book

**5** A fire station burns down. What kind of irony is this?

A. situational irony B. verbal irony

C. dramatic irony D. an allusion

**6** A writer calls a choice that causes many troubles a Pandora's box. Why?

A. It names a kind of toy

B. It describes an empty gift

C. It is a real box in a museum

D. It alludes to a myth about troubles

**7** A spelling champion misspells her own name on the trophy form. What irony is this?

A. verbal irony B. no irony at all

C. situational irony D. dramatic irony

**8** It is pouring rain and Leo says, What lovely weather! What is this?

A. alliteration B. a simile C. verbal irony

D. an allusion

**Explain it! In your own words, write the rule for allusion and irony and one example.**

ANSWER KEY

# Allusion and Irony: Learn and Practice (answers)

Spot famous references and surprising twists

Read each question. Circle the best answer.

**1** What is an allusion?

**A. a reference to a famous story or event**

B. a comparison using like or as

C. a word with the opposite meaning

D. a word that sounds like its meaning

*An allusion borrows meaning by mentioning something readers already know.*

**2** Kai calls his tiny little brother a Goliath. Which two devices are used?

A. alliteration and simile B. simile and rhyme

C. dramatic irony and rhyme

**D. allusion and verbal irony**

*Goliath is a famous giant, an allusion, and calling a tiny boy a giant is verbal irony.*

**3** The audience knows a villain hides behind the door, but the hero does not. This is...

**A. dramatic irony** B. an allusion C. verbal irony

D. situational irony

*When the audience knows more than a character, it is dramatic irony.*

**4** Calling a long journey an odyssey alludes to what?

**A. an ancient Greek epic poem**

B. a popular song C. a famous painting

D. a modern science book

*The Odyssey is an ancient Greek poem about a very long journey home.*

**5** A fire station burns down. What kind of irony is this?

**A. situational irony** B. verbal irony

C. dramatic irony D. an allusion

*We expect a fire station to stop fires, so the opposite outcome is situational irony.*

**6** A writer calls a choice that causes many troubles a Pandora's box. Why?

A. It names a kind of toy

B. It describes an empty gift

C. It is a real box in a museum

**D. It alludes to a myth about troubles**

*In the Greek myth, opening Pandora's box let many troubles loose.*

**7** A spelling champion misspells her own name on the trophy form. What irony is this?

A. verbal irony B. no irony at all

**C. situational irony** D. dramatic irony

*We would never expect a spelling champion to make that mistake.*

**8** It is pouring rain and Leo says, What lovely weather! What is this?

A. alliteration B. a simile **C. verbal irony**

D. an allusion

*Leo says the opposite of what he means, which is verbal irony.*