2008-2009

**AP English - Allusions**

*Know these allusions! Incorporate these into your analytical writing.*

**MYTHOLOGICAL ALLUSIONS**

1. **Achilles’ heel** – is a **person’s only weak or vulnerable point** (Achilles was one of the greatest Greek heroes of the Trojan War, son of mortal Peleus and sea-nymph Thetis. During his infancy, his mother dipped him in the waters of the river Styx, thus making his body invulnerable except for the heel by which she held him. This vulnerable spot would later prove fatal.)

During the Trojan War, Achilles quarreled with his commander Agamemnon because of Agamemnon’s slight in taking from him his war-prize, the concubine Briseis. Achilles refused to fight any longer. After the death of his beloved friend Patroclus at the hands of the Trojan hero Hector, Achilles emerged, filled with grief and rage. He killed Hector and dragged his body behind the wheels of his chariot round the walls of Troy. Achilles was wounded in the heel by a poisoned arrow shot by Paris, Hector’s brother, and died of this wound. The *Iliad* opens with “Sing, goddess, of the anger of Achilles, son of Peleus, that accursed anger which brought uncounted anguish on the Achaians.”

USAGE EX. (1) “There was every temporal reason for leaving: it

would be entering again into a world which he had only quitted in

a passion for isolation, induced by a fit of Achillean moodiness

after an imagined slight.” Thomas Hardy *The Woodlanders* 1887

2. **Adonis** – in Greek mythology was a **beautiful youth** who was loved by both Aphrodite and Persephone. He was killed by a wild boar, but Aphrodite begged Zeus to restore him to life. Zeus decreed that Adonis should spend the winter months of each year in the underworld with Persephone and the summer months with Aphrodite. A man described an as Adonis usually has a **handsome face and gorgeous body**.

USAGE EX. (1) “I really can’t see any resemblance between you, with your rugged strong face and your coal-black hair, and this young Adonis, who looks as if he was made out of ivory and rose-leaves.” Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray* 1891

3. **Aeolian** – according to Greek mythology, Aeolus was a mortal who lived on the floating island of Aeolia. He was a friend of the gods, and Zeus gave him **control of the winds.** He was later regarded as the god of the winds. He has given his name to the Aeolian harp that produces sounds when the wind passes through it. Aeolian music is thus music produced by the effect of the wind.

USAGE EX. (1) “Time to drink in life’s sunshine—time to listen to the Aeolian

music that the wind of God draws from the human heart-strings around us. “

Jerome K. Jerome *Three Men in a Boat* 1889

4. **Apollo** – in Greek mythology was the son of Zeus and Leto and the twin brother of Artemis. He was born on the island of Delos, the site of his most important cult festival. The other main shrine for the worship of Apollo was the oracle at Delphi where as a boy he had traveled and killed a huge snake called Python and taken control of the oracle there. He came to be associated with the **sun** and sometimes given the epithet Phoebus, the Bright One. Apollo later usurped Helios’ place as the god of the sun who drove the sun’s chariot across the sky each day. **Music** – his instrument was a seven-stringed lyre. **Medicine** - father of Aesculapius, god of medicine and healing - **poetic inspiration, archery, prophecy, and pastoral life (he protected herdsmen)**. Apollo, representing **order, reason, and self-discipline,** is often contrasted with Dionysus, representing creativity, sensuality and lack of inhibition. In art, Apollo is represented as an ideal type of male beauty, for example in the famous statue the Apollo Belvedere, now in the Vatican. Apollo had numerous affairs with nymphs, mortal women, and young men. Among his unsuccessful encounters were those with Daphne and Cassandra.

USAGE EX. (1) “Your words have delineated very pretty a graceful Apollo;

he is present to your imagination, tall, fair, blue-eyed, and with a Grecian

profile.” Charlotte Bronte *Jane Eyre* 1847

(2) “He had only a nodding acquaintance with the Hippocratic oath, but was

somehow aware that he was committed to Apollo the Healer to look upon his

teacher in the art of medicine as one of his parents.” John Mortimer

*Paradise Postponed* 1985

5. **Argus-eyed** – Greek mythology, Argus was a giant with 100 eyes, whom Hera made guardian of Io (transformed into a heifer by Zeus). Argus never slept with more than one pair of eyes at a time; she was able to watch Io constantly. After Hermes had killed Argus on behalf of Zeus, Hera took the eyes to deck the peacock’s tail. The term “**argus-eyed**” has come to mean **vigilant or observant.**

6. **Athena/Minerva** – also called Pallas Athene was the Greek goddess of wisdom, of war, and of handicrafts, especially spinning and weaving. She corresponds to the Roman goddess Minerva. Athene is said to have sprung fully grown and fully armed from the brain of her father, Zeus. She is usually represented in sculpture and paintings in armor. The owl was associated with her. (patron goddess of Athens, **personifies wisdom**)

USAGE EX. “It meant the sudden calling into existence, like Pallas Athene

from the head of Zeus, of brand-new complex organs at a single stroke

of the genetic wand.” Richard Dawkins *The Blind Watchmaker* 1986

7. **Atlantean** – a legendary island, beautiful and prosperous, which was overwhelmed by the sea – Atlantis was a legendary island continent in the ocean west of the Pillars of Hercules. According to Plato, Atlantis was beautiful and prosperous and ruled part of Europe and Africa, but following volcanic eruptions, it was swallowed by the sea.

USAGE EX. “Under the clouds out there it’s as still, and lost, as Atlantis.”

Thomas Pynchon *Gravity’s Rainbow* 1973

8. **Aurora** – goddess of the dawn (Roman mythology - Greek is Eos)

9. **Bacchus** – is another name for the Greek god **Dionysus**, the son of Zeus and Semele. Originally, a god of the fertility of nature, associated with wild and ecstatic religious rites, in later traditions he is a **god of wine who loosens inhibitions and inspires creativity in music and poetry**. Bacchanalia was the name given to the **annual feast** and celebrations in honor of the Greek god Dionysus (Bacchus). The celebrations were characterized by wild orgies and drunkenness. The adjective **Bacchanalian** can refer to drunkenness or to wild or drunken partying.

USAGE EX. “Jagger runs and cycles; Aerosmith singer Steve Tylor has banned

sugar, salt, wheat, yeast, fat, red meat and alcohol from his band’s menus. Even

the Grateful Dead, while publicly burning the Bacchanalian flame at both ends,

were secretly calorie watching.” *The Independent* 1997

10. **Bacchanalian** – see above

11. **Calliope** – was one of the nine Muses in Greek mythology, associated with epic poetry – generally held to be the chief of the 9 Muses. She was the mother of Orpheus, by either Apollo or King Oeagrus.

12. **Cassandra** – in Greek mythology was a daughter of Priam, King of Troy. Apollo loved her and gave her the gift of prophecy. When she resisted his advances, he turned the gift into a curse by ensuring that, although her prophecies were true, they would not be believed. Cassandra foretold the fall of Troy and the death of Agamemnon, fulfilled when his wife, Clytemnestra, murdered him. The name Cassandra can be used to **describe anyone whose warnings go unheeded** – one who is a **prophet of doom**.

13. **Centaur** – in Greek mythology is one of a race of creatures who has the **upper body, arms, and head of a man and the body and legs of a horse**

USAGE EX. “ Turning half-beast and half-divine…like a heathen

Centaur, he had escaped his death once more.” Eudora Welty “A Still Moment”

14. **Chimera** – in Greek mythology, a fire-breathing female monster with a lion’s head, a goat’s body, and a serpent’s tail – **any mythical animal formed from parts of various animals** – a **thing which is hoped for but is illusory or impossible to achieve**

(adjective = chimerical)

15. **Cupidity** – in Roman mythology Cupid was the **god of love**, corresponding to the Greek god Eros. He is the son of Venus and Mercury. He is often pictured as a beautiful **naked boy with wings**, carrying a bow and arrows, with which he wounds his victims and makes them fall in love. Cupid fell in love with the **beautiful Psyche** – visiting her only at night and insisting that she not see what he looked like. When Psyche succumbed to curiosity and lit a lamp while he slept, a few drops of hot oil fell on him and woke him. He left her, and she wandered across the earth looking for him and accomplishing various tasks set for her by Venus. Eventually Psyche was reunited with Cupid and married him in heaven. **He is known today as the cherubic but mischievous little boy. Cupidity = excessive desire, esp. for wealth; avarice (from *cupere* to desire, Cupid derives from *cupere*, to desire)**

16. **Erotic** – Eros was god of love (Greek) see above – deals with sexual love and desire tending to arouse sexual desire; dominated by sexual love or desire

17. **Furor** – goddess of rage or fury

18. **Gorgon** – in Greek mythology they were 3 sisters, Stheno, Euryale and Medusa (the only mortal one) who had **snakes for hair** and the power to turn anyone who looked at them to stone. A gorgon is a **frightening or repulsive woman**. Medusa was killed by Perseus.

19. **Halcyon** – a mythical bird said by ancient writers to breed in a nest floating at sea at the winder solstice, charming the wind and **waves into calm** – also denoting a period of time in the past that was **idyllically happy and peaceful** (halcyon days) – a kingfisher (bird) with brightly colored plumage, who laid its eggs and incubated them on the surface of the seas for fourteen days before the winter solstice, and the sea was calm

20. **Harpy** – in Greek and Roman mythology, harpies (from Greek word meaning snatchers) were fierce monsters with the heads and bodies of women and wings and claws of vultures. Harpies seem to have combined the primitive concepts of **wind spirits** and **predatory ghosts** with actual characteristics of carrion birds. Now it means a **cruel or grasping, unscrupulous woman.**

21. **Hector** – in Greek mythology eldest son of Priam and Hecuba, the leading Trojan hero in the Trojan War. Killed in single combat by Achilles in revenge for death of Patroclus, Achilles dragged his body behind the wheels of his chariot 3 times around the walls of Troy.

22. **Helen of Troy** – in Greek mythology the daughter of Zeus and Leda who grew into the **most beautiful woman in the world**. She married Menelaus, and her abduction by the Trojan prince Paris **led to the Trojan War**. Doctor Faustus, in Marlowe’s play, calls up the spirit of Helen of Troy: “Was this the face that launch’d a thousand ships / And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?”

23. **Herculean** – in both Greek and Roman mythology, Hercules (Heracles by the Greeks) was a **hero of superhuman strength and courage**, usually depicted with a lion-skin, club and bow. He was son of Zeus by Alcemene, wife of Amphitryon. He performed 12 immense tasks, or “labours,” imposed on him by Eurystheus, King of Argos. After his death, he was granted immortality by the gods. **Any exceptionally strong or muscular man can be described as a Hercules of Herculean. A Herculean task is one that is formidably difficult.**

24. **Hydra-headed** – In Greek mythology, the Hydra was a **many-headed snake** of the marshes of Lerna – whose heads grew again as they were cut off. As one of his 12 labours, Hercules slew the Hydra by searing each neck with a burning torch as he cut off the head to prevent 2 more heads growing to replace it. **Something that seems to be never-ending or indestructible because new parts keep developing are alluded to as hydra-headed or as a hydra.**

25**. Iridescent** – showing luminous colors that seem to change when seen from different angles – **Iris** = in Greek mythology the **goddess of the rainbow**, who acted as a messenger for the gods when they intended **discord**, and the rainbow is the bridge or road let down from heaven for her accommodation. When the gods meant peace, they sent Hermes.

26**. Jovial** – Jove is another name for Jupiter, the Roman name for the supreme deity. Jovial means one with **markedly good humor.**

27. **Junoesque** – in Roman mythology Juno was the wife and sister of Jupiter and queen of heaven, equivalent to the Greek Hera. She was enraged at the philanderings of her husband Jupiter. She was the protectress of marriage and women**. Junoesque means marked by stately beauty, imposingly tall and stately.**

28. **Lethargy** – named from the **Lethe River** in Greek mythology (one of the rivers in Hades), whose water caused those who drank it to **lose all memory** of their past life on earth. The souls of the dead were required to taste its water that they might forget everything said and done when alive. **Lethe represents oblivion or forgetfulness, and occasionally death. Lethargy can mean a lack of energy or enthusiasm.**

29. **Martia**l – **Mars**, in Roman mythology, was the **god of war** (second in importance only to Jupiter and for whom the month of March is named. Martial means **related to fighting or war.**

30. **Medea** – in Greek mythology she was a sorceress who fell in love with Jason and helped him to obtain the golden fleece. When Jason later wed the daughter of Creon, King of Corinth, she was so enraged that she murdered their (Jason and hers) two children as well as Jason’s young bride. He was wed to Medea first.

31. **Mentor** – an old man in the *Odyssey* who watched over Telemachus when Odysseus went to war. His name is synonymous with a **wise and faithful counselor** – an experienced and **trusted adviser**.

32. **Mercurial** – in Roman mythology Mercury was the **messenger of the gods** (Hermes in Greek) and is pictured as a herald wearing winged sandals which enable him to travel very swiftly. He was the god of science, commerce, patron of travelers and of rogues, and thieves. Hence, his name denotes both a messenger and a thief. **Mercurial means to be quick and changeable in character, having the traits of Mercury.**

33. **Mercury/Hermes** – hermetically sealed means airtight, and Hermetic also relates to alchemy (god of science) – mercury, the element, goes up and down to measure atmospheric temperature or pressure – a mercurial person tends to go up and down in emotions (like Catherine in *Wuthering Heights* (“I love Heathcliff, I don’t” which got her into a heap of trouble).

34. **Mnemonics** – Mnemosyne was the mother of the 9 Muses and goddess of **memory** in Greek mythology. **Mnemonic aids are used to remember things**, like HOMES to recall the names of the Great Lakes: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior).

35. **Morphine** – Morpheus was the Roman god of **dreams**, son of Somnus, the god of sleep. Morphine is a narcotic drug obtained from opium and used to relieve pain.

36. **Muse** – in Greek mythology, the 9 Muses were daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, goddess of memory. Today, a muse means **a woman or a force personified as a woman who is the source of inspiration for a creative artist.**

Nine Muses:

--Calliope (epic poetry)

--Clio (history)

--Erato (lyre and lyric love poetry)

--Euterpe (flute playing and lyric poetry)

--Melpomene (tragedy)

--Polyhymnia (songs to the gods)

--Terpsichore (dancing and singing that accompanies it)

--Thalia (comedy and bucolic poetry)

--Urania (astronomy)

37**. Narcissism** – in Greek mythology, Narcissus was a youth of extraordinary beauty who cruelly spurned many admirers, including the nymph Echo. He fell in love with his own reflection in a pool of water. Echo caused this. Narcissus pined away and died, longing for his own image, and was turned into the white flower named after him. **Narcissism describes a neurotic obsession with one’s own person, the epitome of excessive vanity**.

38. **Nemesis** – in Greek mythology, she was the goddess responsible for **retribution**, either for a person who had transgressed the moral code or for a person who had taken too much pride in his/her success or luck (hubris). Nemesis is used to refer to a person’s **doom or terrible but unavoidable fate**, or as a personification of punishment or retribution for wrongdoing or excessive pride. (EX. English AP is her nemesis. When a sports team just can’t seem to defeat a certain opponent, one could call that opponent the team’s nemesis.)

39. **Neptune** – in Roman mythology (Poseidon in Greek) was god of the sea. He is represented as an elderly man of stately bearing, bearded, carrying a trident and sometimes riding a dolphin or horse.

40. **Niobe** – in Greek mythology was the daughter of Tantalus and mother of numerous offspring. She boasted about her large family, which angered the goddess Leto who only had Apollo and Artemis. Apollo slew all Niobe’s sons, and Artemis her daughters. Niobe was turned into a stone and her tears into streams that eternally trickled from it. She is a symbol of inconsolable grief.

Hamlet: “Like Niobe, all tears.” Hamlet says of his mother at his father’s funeral.

41. ***Odyssey*** – In Greek mythology, Odysseus was the son of Laertes, King of Ithaca and central figure in the *Odyssey*. (In Roman, known as Ulysses). Homer’s epic poem recounts the ten-year voyage of Odysseus during his years of wandering after the fall of Troy. **Any long series of wanderings or long, adventurous journey can be described as an odyssey.**

42. **Olympian** – Mount Olympus in Greece is held to be the home of the Greek gods. Olympian refers to anyone or **anything that is superior** to or more important than lesser mortals.

43**. Paean** – from Greek mythology, the healer of the gods – name later applied to Apollo, acquired the meaning of a song, hymn or chant to Apollo, of a triumphant nature = **a triumphal song in general.** Invoked by the name Paian, originally the Homeric name for the physician of the gods. – a creative work expressing enthusiastic praise – He created a filmic paean to his hero.

44. **Pandora’s Box** – in Greek mythology Pandora, the first mortal woman was given by the gods a jar (or box) that she was forbidden to open. Out of curiosity she disobeyed and released from it all the evils and illnesses that have afflicted mankind ever since, with only Hope remaining at the bottom. **The term is used for a source of many unforeseen and unmanageable problems. Also, a process that once begun generates many complicated problems.** (These laws opened a Pandora’s Box for taxpayers.)

45. **Parnassus** – in Greek mythology was a mountain a few miles north of Delphi associated with Apollo and the Muses. On its slopes was the Castalian spring whose waters were believed to give inspiration to those who drank of them. Parnassus is regarded as the seat of poetry and music. Parnassian pertains to poetry.

46. **Pegasus** – in Greek mythology is the winged horse which sprang from the blood of the Gorgon Medusa when Perseus cut off her head. Pegasus was ridden by Perseus in his rescue of Andromeda and by Bellerophon when he fought the Chimera. The name Pegasus can represent **a means of escape**.

47. **Phoenix** – a **mythical bird** of gorgeous plumage, the only one of its kind. After living for 5 or 6 centuries in the Arabian desert, it burnt itself on a funeral pyre ignited by the sun and fanned by its own wings and rose from the ashes with renewed youth to live through another lifespan. Anything that has been **restored to a new existence** after apparent destruction can be said to be like the Phoenix. It symbolizes **resurrection** or a person or thing regarded as **uniquely remarkable** in some respect.

48. **Plutocracy** – In Greek mythology **Plutus** was god of wealth and was represented as blind because he distributed riches indiscriminately, as lame because riches come slowly and with wings because riches disappear more quickly than they come. Plutocrat is **one who exercises influence or possesses power through his wealth**. Plutocracy is government by the wealthy.

49. **Promethean** – In Greek mythology Prometheus was a Titan, brother of Atlas, seen in many legends as the champion of humankind against the gods. In some stories, he actually **made the first men** by making figures of clay with which the help of Athene brought to life. Prometheus **stole fire** from Mt. Olympus and gave to men, angering the gods, and also taught them arts and sciences. As a punishment for his disobedience to the gods, Zeus had Prometheus chained to a rock, where each day an eagle tore out his liver, which grew again each night. Hercules rescued him. Prometheus is the **archetype of the courageous rebel who dares to challenge the power of the gods and of fate**. The Promethean spark of fire is the **spark of life or vitality**. Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* is titled *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* because Dr. Frankenstein tried to create man. The result upsets the universe, literally, with the final product – the creature.

50**. Protean** – In Greek mythology the son of Oceanus and Tethys, was given by Poseidon the power to **prophesy the future**. He has **power to change his shape**, which he would exploit in order to escape those seeking his predictions. He is sometimes depicted as emerging from the sea, almost like a male Venus, and resting on the seashore. Protean refers to **changeability**, tending or able to **change frequently or easily**; **able to do many different things, versatile** (protean thinkers who scan the horizons of work and society).

51. **Psyche** – The heroine of the myth of Cupid and Psyche. She was a beautiful maiden who loved Cupid but only saw him at night. (see Cupid). Psyche in Greek means **breath, life or soul**. A personification of the **soul as female** or sometimes as a butterfly - the allegory of Psyche’s love for Cupid – the human soul, mind or spirit. (EX. I will never really fathom the female psyche.)

52. **Pygmalion** – the king of Cyprus who fashioned an ivory statue of a beautiful woman and loved it so deeply that in answer to his prayer, Aphrodite gave it life. The woman was named Galatea, and she bore him a daughter. George Bernard Shaw wrote the play *Pygmalion* in 1913 where Professor Henry Higgins takes a Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle and transforms her into an elegant lady. Later, this became the musical ***My Fair Lady***(1956).

53. **Pyrrhic victory** – Pyrrhus was king of Epirus (c. 307-272). In defeating the Romans at Asculum in 279, he sustained **heavy losses**, commenting, “Such another victory and we are ruined.” Hence a pyrrhic victory is **one gained with terrible loss of life or at too great a cost.**

54. **Saturnalia** – The ancient Roman festival of Saturn in December, called the Saturnalia, was characterized by general unrestrained merrymaking. The term is applied to a **scene of wild revelry or an orgy**.

55. **Saturnine** – of a person or their features, dark in coloring and **moody or mysterious** (his saturnine face and dark, watchful eyes).

56**. Sibyl** – Sibyls were prophetesses in ancient Greece. They gave their prophecies in an ecstatic state and their utterances were often ambiguous and riddle-like. Sibyl means a **woman able to foretell the future**.

57. **Sisyphean** – In Greek mythology Sisyphus was a king of Corinth, punished in Hades for his misdeeds in life by being condemned to the eternal **task of rolling a huge stone** to the top of a hill. Each time he approached the summit, the stone slipped and rolled down to the bottom again. Sisyphean **denotes a task that can never be completed, a seemingly endless ordeal.**

58. **Stentorian** – Stentor was a Greek herald in the Trojan War, supposed to have the voice of 50 men combined. He was unwise enough to challenge Hermes to a shouting match and when he lost, paid the penalty for his presumption by being put to death. Stentorian describes a **person with a powerful voice** – James Earl Jones.

59. **Stygian** – In Greek mythology the **river Styx** was the main river of Hades, the underworld, across which the souls of the dead were said to be ferried by Charon. Stygian refers to any **deep, gloomy, or foggy darkness—very dark.**

60. **Tantalize** – in Greek mythology **Tantalus** was the king of Phrygia who was punished for his misdeeds (including killing his son Pelos and offering his cooked flesh to the gods) by being condemned in Hades to stand up to his chin in **water which receded** whenever he tried to drink it and under branches of **fruit which drew back** when he tried to reach them. Thus the word tantalize – **torment or tease** (someone) with the sight or promise of something that is unobtainable (also to excite the desires of someone – the tantalizing fragrance of her perfume).

**61. Terpsichorean – Terpsichore means delighting in** dance and was one of the 9 **Muses** in Greek mythology associated with dancing, especially choral dancing and its accompanying song. Terpsichorean relates to dancing.

62. **Titanic** – The **Titans** were the older gods of Greek mythology who preceded the Olympians and were the children of Uranus (Heaven) and Gaia (Earth). They rebelled against and overthrew Uranus and were in turn defeated by their own children, the Olympians, led by Zeus. A person of very great strength and size is a Titan. **Titanic = exceptional strength, size, or power.**

63. **Volcanoes** – from the Roman god **Vulcan – the god of fire and metalworking** (Greek god is Hephaestus) and, though ugly, married to Venus, the most beautiful of the goddesses. He is pictured at the forge, and he made Zeus’s thunderbolts and Achilles’ armor. A volcano is a conical mountain with a crater or bent through which lava, rock and gas erupt.

64. **Vulcanize** – from Vulcan, the god of fire, means to harden (rubber or rubber-like material) by treating it with sulphur at a high temperature

65**.** **Zeus** – the **supreme ruler of the Olympian gods** in Greek mythology (Jupiter in Roman), was the protector and ruler of mankind, the dispenser of justice and the god of weather, whose most famous weapon was the thunderbolt. Although husband of Hera, he had many affairs with goddesses, nymphs, and mortal women, often disguising himself to accomplish seductions. He was the son of Cronus (whom he dethroned) and Rhea.

**ALLUSIONS FROM LITERATURE**

1. **Babbitt** – George Babbitt was the protagonist of the satirical novel *Babbitt* (1922) by Sinclair Lewis. Babbitt means a **materialistic, complacent, and conformist businessman**.

2. **Brobdingnagian** – Brobdingnag is the land inhabited by giants in Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726). The word describes anything that is **gigantic in size or scale**.

3. **Bumble** – Mr. Bumble is in Dickens’s *Oliver Twist* and is a minor official in the workhouse where Oliver is brought up. Bumble is a cruel, fussy man with mighty ideas of his own importance. Bumbledom means officious **arrogance and conceit of the petty dignitary.**

4**. Cinderella** – a girl in various traditional European fairy tales. In one version she is exploited as a servant by her family but enabled by a fairy godmother to attend a royal ball where she meets Prince Charming. She has to flee at midnight, leaving the prince to identify her by the glass slipper she leaves behind. Cinderella means the following: (1) a person or thing that is undeservedly neglected or ignored, (2) used to describe a transformation from poverty of plainness to prosperity or glamour, (3) refer to an undervalued service that nobody will provide for, or(4) an instruction that must be followed precisely (late-night deadline).

5. **Don Juan** – was a legendary Spanish nobleman famous for his seductions. The term means a man with a **reputation for seducing women**.

6. **Don Quixote** – is the aging hero of a romance, *Don Quixote de la Mancha* (1605-15) by Miguel de Cervantes. He is devoted to tales of chivalry and romance, becoming so obsessed with these stories that “the moisture of his brain was exhausted to that degree, that at last he lost the use of his reason.” Unable to distinguish fanciful from the real, he determines to turn knight errant and sets out in search of adventures. Tall, lean, and thin-faced, he dons rusty armor and is accompanied by his scrawny old horse Rosinante and a short, fat quire, Sancho Panza. In one episode he attacks a group of windmills thinking they are giants. He elevates a village girl and names her Dulcinea as the ideal of womanly beauty and virtue. Don Quixote allusions pick up on various attributes of his character: his **insanity**, his **idealism** and his **thinness**. He is a **foolish, mistaken idealist** or someone who naively believes that he can **set the world to rights single-handedly**. The character **fights against illusory evils or fails to see things as they really are**. To tilt at windmills is to attack imaginary or impossible targets. **Quixotic means extremely idealistic, unrealistic and impractical.**

7. **Falstaffian** – Sir John Falstaff is the fat, witty, good-humored old knight in Shakespeare’s *Henry IV* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Falstaffian means something that resembles Falstaff, **fat, jolly and debauched** (a Falstaffian gusto for life.)

8. **Frankenstein** – Mary Shelley’s novel (1818) relates the exploits of Victor Frankenstein, a Genevan student who builds a grotesque manlike creature out of corpses and brings it to life. The creature is never named. The book ends with the monster destroying Victor and then goes away to end its own life. (EX. Does cloning entail **Frankensteinian** methods?)

9. **Friday** – Man Friday is in Daniel Defoe’s *Robinson Crusoe* (1719) and is the name given by Crusoe to the man he meets on his island, on a Friday, after spending many years there alone following a shipwreck. The two become close friends and constant companions.

10. **Galahad** – In Arthurian legend, Sir Galahad was the noblest knight of the Round Table, the son of Sir Lancelot and Elaine. His immaculate purity and virtue predestine him to succeed in the quest for the Holy Grail. His name is a byword for **chivalrous heroism,** and the image of him riding up on his charger to rescue a maiden in distress is a common one. His name can also mean a **person characterized by nobility, integrity, or courtesy.**

11. **Jekyll and Hyde** – In Robert Louis Stevenson’s *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886), Dr. Jekyll discovers a drug that allows him to have a separate personality, Mr. Hyde, through which he can express the evil side of his personality. Eventually, Hyde takes the upper hand. The term “Jekyll and Hyde’ refers to **someone whose personality appears to undergo an abrupt transformation, particularly from gentleness to aggressiveness or violence.**  **A person who reveals an unsuspected evil side to his/her character can be said to be changing into Mr. Hyde.**

12. **Lilliputian** – In book one of Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726), Gulliver finds himself shipwrecked on the island of Lilliput. The tiny Lilliputians are only 6 inches tall and are as small-minded as they are small-bodied—**petty, pretentious and factious**. Lilliputian means **trivial or very small**, traits of the Lilliputians.

13. **Little Lord Fauntleroy** – From the name of the boy hero of Frances Hodgson Burnett’s novel LLF (1886), it means an **excessively well-mannered or elaborately dressed young boy.**

14. **Lothario** – is a character from Nicholas Rowe’s play *The Fair Penitent* (1703), “that haughty, gallant, gay Lothario.” As with Casanova and Don Juan, Lothario is a byword for libertinism (characterized by **free indulgence in sensual pleasures** without regard to morals).

15. **Malapropism** – In Sheridan’s *The Rivals* (1775), Mrs. Malaprop is known for her **aptitude for misusing long words**, the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar-sounding one, often with an amusing effect (dance a flamingo instead of flamenco).

16. **Milquetoast** - Caspar Milquetoast was a timid comic-strip character created in 1924. A Milquetoast is any **submissive, meek, or timid person.**

17. **Panglossian** – In Voltaire’s *Candide* (1759), Dr. Pangloss is the tutor who imbues Candide with his guiding philosophy that all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. No matter what misfortunes they each suffer on their travels, Pangloss confidently and complacently assures Candide that things could not be otherwise. **Panglossian describes a person who is optimistic regardless of the circumstances**.

18. **Pickwickian** – Samuel Pickwick is the central character of Dickens’s *The Pickwick Papers* (1836-37). He is **jovial, generous, and unworldly in character and short, plump and bespectacled in appearance**.

19. **Pollyanna** – heroine of stories by American author Eleanor H. Porter (1868-1920). Pollyanna is a perpetually cheerful girl who teaches everyone she meets to play the “just being glad” game – to find something about everything to be glad about no matter what “twas.” The name Pollyanna has come to stand for an **unflagging (and often excessively saccharine) cheerfulness, an ability to find apparent cause for happiness in the most unpromising situations (almost with a sense of apology that may seem naïve to others).**

20. **Pooh-bah** – is the Lord-High-Everything-Else character in Gilbert and Sullivan’s *The Mikado* (1885). It means a **self-important person** or a **person holding many offices at once.**

22. **Quixotic** – See Don Quixote entry.

23. **Scroog**e – The miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is a character in Dickens’s **A Christmas Carol** (1843), whose parsimony and lack of charity are most apparent at Christmas. His names denotes **any mean or tight-fisted person**.

24. **Simon Legree** – is the cruel cotton plantation owner in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1851-42) to whom Tom is sold and who beats Tom to death. Legree’s name is synonymous for a **brutal taskmaster**.

25**. Svengali** – is a musician in George Du Maurier’s novel *Trilby* (1894) who trains Trilby’s voice and makes her a famous singer. His control over her is so great that when he dies, she loses her ability to sing. **Svengali means someone who establishes considerable or near-total influence over someone else—a person who exercises a controlling or mesmeric influence on another, especially for a sinister purpose**.

26**. Tartuffe** – the main character of Moliere’s play *Le Tartuffe, ou L’Imposteur*, first performed in 1664. He is a religious hypocrite who uses the sly pretense of virtue and religious devotion to win the admiration and friendship of an honest but foolish man, Orgon. Tartuffe cleverly persuades the wealthy Orgon to sign over all his property to him, while behind Orgon’s back, he makes advances to his wife and mocks his gullibility.

**Tartuffe describes a religious hypocrite or a hypocritical pretender to excellence of any kind.**

27. **Uncle Tom** – is a loyal and ever-patient black slave, the main character of Stowe’s anti-slavery novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852). The term can be applied to a **black man whose behavior to white people is regarded as submissively servile, and by extension can refer to anyone regarded as betraying his or her cultural or social allegiance.**

28. **Uriah Heep** – is the shrewd, deceitful clerk of the lawyer Mr. Wickfield in Dickens’s *David Copperfield* (1850). Feigning humility, he describes himself as “so very “umble” while repeatedly wringing his hands. He insinuates his way into Mr. Wickfield’s confidence and becomes one of his partners. Heep uses this position to defraud people of money, until he is exposed, sent to prison, and condemned to transportation for life. His name is a byword for **obsequiousness and false humility**, and his often repeated **gesture of rubbing his hands together** as he speaks is sometimes alluded to in this context.

29. **Walter Mitty** – James Thurber’s short story “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” (1939) relates how a henpecked husband escapes his wife’s nagging by retreating into his own world of daydreams in which he is the hero of many adventures. A Walter Mitty is **someone who lives in a fantasy world, especially someone who has lost touch with reality**.

30. **Yahoo** – The Yahoos are the imaginary race of brutish creatures, resembling humans, in Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726). They embody all the baser vices and instincts of the human race. Yahoo refers **to a course, loutish, or rowdy person, or one who engages in wanton vandalism. Also, a Yahoo can be a rude, noisy or violent person.**

**BIBLICAL ALLUSIONS**

1. **Absalom** – the favorite son of King David, who led a rebellion against his father, chasing David out of Jerusalem. In the subsequent battle, David ordered his men to “deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom,” but his commander Joab ignored this command and slew Absalom. Absalom was fleeing on a mule, but was caught by his long hair in the branches of an oak tree. Joab took three darts and stabbed Absalom in the heart. David wept on hearing of his son’s death: “O my son, Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

**Absalom alludes to the ultimate rebellious son.**

2. **Alpha and Omega** – **the beginning and end** (used by Christians as a title for Jesus ) – **the essence or most important features**. These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus says “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last” (Rev. 22:13).

3. **Cain** – in Genesis, **Cain was the first-born son of Adam and Eve**, who **murdered his younger brother Abel.** Cain was a tiller of the ground and Abel a keeper of sheep. When they brought their offerings to God, Abel’s lamb was accepted but Cain’s offering from his harvest was not. In jealous anger, Cain killed his brother. God demanded an explanation for Abel’s absence, to which **Cain responded “Am I my brother’s keeper**?” Cain was cursed by God forever and was cast out from his homeland and forced to live a life of vagrancy for the rest of his life. God branded him with a mark to indicate that no one should kill him and shorten his nomadic punishment. The phrase **“mark of Cain” has come to stand for the sign of a murderer**. “Raise Cain” means to cause trouble or a commotion.

4. **Daniel** – According to the book of Daniel, he was a devout Jew who spent his life as one of those taken into exile in Babylon. He had a gift for interpreting visions and dreams. He was able to explain the meaning of a strange dream that Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon, had had, for which he was made the king’s chief adviser. Later, he interpreted a second dream of N’s to foretell his insanity, which immediately came to pass. As a result of disobedience of a law (not to pray to God), Daniel was thrown in the lion’s den. God sent an angel to shut the lions’ mouths. **Daniel is synonymous with courage of one who faces great danger alone without any material protection.**

5. **David & Bathsheba** – Bathsheba was the beautiful wife of Uriah whom King David took as his mistress after he had seen her bathing from the roof of the palace. David sent for her, slept with her, and she became pregnant. David then arranged for Uriah to be sent into the front line of the battle in which the Israelites were besieging Rabbah, and he was killed. After Bathsheba’s period of mourning, David married her. Bathsheba became the mother of Solomon.

6. **Eye of the Needle Filthy Lucre** – lucre – money, especially when regarded as sordid or distasteful or gained in a dishonorable way

7. **Goliath** – was the Philistine giant in the Bible who issued a challenge to single combat to any opponent from the Israelite army. The challenge was accepted by the young David, who slew the over 9-foot tall Goliath with a stone from a sling. A large or powerful person or organization can be described as a Goliath, especially if they are being challenged by someone small and weak. (**a person or thing of enormous size or strength)**

8. **Good Samaritan** – One of Jesus’ parables tells of a Samaritan who stopped to help a victim of thieves left wounded by the roadside and already ignored by a priest and a Levite. This term is used to describe a **person who is helpful and compassionate**, especially to those in adversity.

9. **Handwriting on the Wall** – Belshazzar, King of Babylon, gave a great banquet where they drank from goblets taken from the temple and praised the gods of gold, silver, etc. Suddenly the fingers of a human hand appeared and wrote on the wall the words “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.” Daniel translated the words, explaining to Belshazzar that his reign was over, that he had been weighed in the balance and found wanting, and that his kingdom would be divided and given to the Medes and Persians. **The handwriting on the wall is thus a herald of doom.**

10**. Ishmael** – Ishmael is the son of Abraham by Hagar, the maid of Abraham’s wife, Sarah. Ishmael was cast out when Sarah gave birth to Isaac. **The name Ishmael is used allusively for an outcast.** The name is used for the narrator of Melville’s *Moby Dick,* the opening words of which are “Call me Ishmael.”

11. **Jacob** – Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebecca and twin brother to Esau. He was tricked into marrying Leah, but he was given Rachel a week later (the one he loved) after promising to work for an additional seven years. **Jacob and Rachel can be alluded to as patient lovers.**  Jacob also gave his brother Esau food (one day Esau who was extremely hungry wanted Jacob’s food) if Esau would sell Jacob his birthright as the elder of the twins. Esau did just that. **Jacob pottage is something pleasant and immediately satisfying for which one gives up something far more valuable.** Jacob also tricked his father into giving him the blessing due the first-born (Esau); thus, **Jacob can be alluded to as someone who trick or deceives others to gain what he wants.**

12. **Job** – The Old Testament tells the story of Job, a prosperous man whose patience and piety God tries, first by taking away his wealth and then by heaping other misfortunes upon him, including “loathsome sores.” In spite of suffering, **Job remains humble** and accepting. He does not lose his confidence in the goodness and justice of God, and his patience is finally rewarded with wealth and long life. **His name is synonymous with forbearance.**

13. **Job’s comforter** – is someone whose attempts to give sympathy and comfort have the opposite effect—from three friends of Job’s who came to comfort him but only increased his distress by telling him that his misfortunes were the result of his sinfulness

14. **Jonah** – was a Hebrew minor prophet who was commanded by God to go to Nineveh and cry against it for its wickedness. He refused to obey God, and he embarked on a ship where God sent a storm as punishment. Jonah was cast into the water by the other sailors as an omen of bad luck; the storm abated and Jonah was swallowed by a huge fish. **Jonah means someone who has survived a very difficult or dangerous situation.**

15. **Judas** – Judas Iscariot was the disciple who, in return for 30 pieces of silver, betrayed Jesus to the Jewish authorities with a kiss of identification. When he learned that Jesus was condemned to death, he realized the enormity of his betrayal and repented, returned the money and hanged himself. The term Judas is one **who betrays a friend, and a “Judas kiss” is an act of betrayal.**

16. **King Ahab and Jezebel** – Ahab was the idolatrous (worship of idols) king of Israel who married Jezebel and introduced into Israel the worship of the Phoenician god Baal. Ahab’s name became associated with **wickedness**, especially the offence of honoring **pagan gods.**

17. **Manna** - was the “bread” provided by God for the Israelites when they were crossing the desert during their flight from Egypt (Exodus.) It appeared as small white flakes and would not keep overnight except on the sixth day when enough was provided to keep for the seventh day, the Sabbath, on which the travelers were to rest. It tastes like wafers made with honey. Manna appeared miraculously. **It can mean something beneficial that appears or is provided unexpectedly or opportunely (a major aircraft accident is manna to lawyers) – it is also referred to as spiritual nourishment.**

18. **Original Sin** – **the Fall** – the tendency to evil supposedly innate in all human beings, held to be inherited from Adam in consequence of the Fall. The concept of original sin was established by the writings of St. Augustine. The Fall of Man is the time in Jewish and Christian theology when humankind fell from a state of innocence into a state of sin. This is taken to be the **act of disobedience by Adam and Eve** in the Garden of Eden in eating from the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil.

19. **Pearl of Great Price** – (a parable) A merchant finds a great pearl and sells all that he has to buy the pearl. The merchant is on a mission to find something of great value (like the kingdom of God). **This alludes to those who are searching for something of great value.**

20. **Philistine** – The ancient Philistines were the traditional enemies of the Israelites, regarded by them as hostile barbarians. Their name has come to be people who are **indifferent to culture and to the arts and have uncultivated tastes.**

21. **Prodigal Son** – In a parable told by Jesus, a young man squandered the property his father gave him “with riotous living.” He is traditionally known as the Prodigal Son, meaning one who is spendthrift or recklessly extravagant. When, repenting his behavior, the son returned home, he was received with compassion and forgiveness by his father. “Bring forth the best robe and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it, and let us eat, and be merry, for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found” (Luke 15: 11-32). **The terms prodigal and prodigal son are now generally used to refer to a repentant sinner or a returned wanderer, but prodigal means spending money freely and recklessly or wastefully extravagant.**

22. **Ruth and Naomi** – Ruth is a book in the Old Testament. She was a widow who refused to leave her mother-in-law after the death of her husband, saying “whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God”. **Ruth is the epitome of loyalty and devotion.**

23. **Samson and Delilah** – The book of Judges relates how Samson, an Israelite leader known for his great strength, fell in love with Delilah. The Philistines asked her to discover the secret of his great strength. On three occasions, when she asked him for the secret, he lied to her. She continued to ask, telling him that he could not love her as he claimed if he did not tell her the truth. He told her his strength was in his hair, which had never been cut. Delilah arranged to have Samson’s hair shaved while he slept. She delivered him to the Philistines, who “put out his eyes and brought him to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass.” During his captivity, his hair grew back, and being brought out to make sport for the Philistines during a religious celebration, he called on God for strength and pulled down the pillars supporting the temple, destroying himself and a large number of Philistines. **Samson’s hair can be alluded to when referring to a strong or powerful person rendered weak and vulnerable**.

24. **Scapegoat** – The scapegoat was a goat which was sent into the wilderness after a priest had symbolically laid all the sins of the Israelites upon it so that the sins would be taken away. **The word “scapegoat’ has now come to refer to any person who takes the blame for the wrongdoings or failings of others.**

25. **Sepulcher** – a burial vault

26. **Sodom and Gomorrah** – were towns in ancient Palestine, probably south of the Dead Sea. According to Genesis 19:24, they were destroyed by fire and brimstone (sulphur) from heaven as a punishment for the **depravity and wickedness** of their inhabitants. Lot, the nephew of Abraham, was allowed to escape from the destruction of Sodom with his family. His wife disobeyed God’s order not to look back at the burning city and was turned into a pillar of salt.

27**. Solomon** – son of David and Bathsheba, was the king of ancient Israel. He was famed for **his wisdom and justice**. The “judgment of Solomon” refers to his arbitration in a dispute about a baby claimed by each of two women. Solomon proposed dividing the baby in half with his sword, and then gave it to the woman who showed concern for its life.

28. **Twelve Tribes of Israel** – Twelve kin groups of ancient Israel, each traditionally descended from one of the twelve sons of Jacob

**HISTORICAL ALLLUSIONS**

1. **Atilla the Hun** (406-453) was the king of the Huns in 434-453. Having attacked and devastated much of the eastern Roman Empire in 445-450, Attila invaded the Western Empire but was defeated by the Romans and the Visigoths in 451. He and his army, noted for their **savagery, were the terror of Europe** during his lifetime, and Attila later came to be called the Scourge of God. He is supposed to have died either by poison or from a massive nosebleed.

2. **Berserk** – means out of control with anger of excitement; **wild or frenzied** (was a wild **Norse warrior who fought with frenzy)**

3. **Bowdlerize** – means to remove material that is considered improper or offensive from a test or account, especially with the result that the text becomes weaker or less effective (from the name of **Dr. Thomas Bowdler** (1754-1825) who published an expurgated edition of Shakespeare in 1818) also Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* was bowdlerized.

4. **Boycott** – means to withdraw from commercial or social relations with a country, organization or person as a punishment or protest (refuse to buy or handle goods as a protest) (refuse to cooperate with or participate in a policy or event) = from the name of **Captain Charles C. Boycott** (1832-97) an Irish land agent so treated in 1880, in an attempt instigated by the Irish Land League to get rents reduced

5. **Casanova** – Casanova (1725-98) was an **Italian** adventurer, spy, gambler, and librarian who, according to his *Memoirs*, engaged in a prodigious number of **promiscuous love affairs**.

6. **Chauvinist** – Nicholas Chauvin was a person whose character was represented as making grotesque and threatening displays of his attachment to his fallen chief Napoleon in 1815. **Blind and absurd devotion to a fallen leader or an obsolete cause can be chauvinism**. **Exaggerated and unreasoning partisanship to any group or cause is also chauvinism. A chauvinist is a person with a prejudiced belief in the superiority of his or her own kind.**

7. **Derrick** – Derrick was the surname of a London hangman (early 17th century). The word denotes a hangman, also the **gallows or a framework** (like oil derrick).

8. **Donnybrook** – a scene of **uproar and disorder**; a heated argument (from mid 19th century, from name of suburb of Dublin, Ireland, formerly famous for its annual fair)

9. **El Dorado** – literally “**the Gilded One**” – was the fabled city or country of gold sought in the 16th century by the Spanish conquistadores, who believed it existed somewhere in the area of the Orinoco and Amazon rivers. Any **place of fabulous wealth** (**or a place of great abundance**) can be described as an El Dorado.

10. **Hackney** – a **horse** or pony of a light breed with a high-stepping trot, used in a harness – a **horse-drawn vehicle** kept for hire (a hackney coach) – Middle English, probably from Hackney in East **London**, where horses were pastured.

11. **Horatio Alger** – (1832-99) was an **American writer** and clergyman who wrote **adventure stories for boys**. The stories were on the **theme of rags to riches**, with the hero’s initial struggles with poverty eventually leading to fame and wealth.

12. **Laconic** - (of a person, speech or style of writing) **using very few words** (mid 16th century via Latin from Greek – Sparta – **Spartans** being known for their terse speech)

13. **Limerick** - is a nonsense verse of five lines. It could be attributed to the county and city of Limerick in Ireland, but the connection is obscure. It is usually attributed to a party game in which each guest in turn made up a nonsense verse and all sang a refrain with the line “Will you come up to Limerick?” Or it could be from Edward Lear (1812-1888), an English humorist who popularized the form (Learic = limerick).

14. **Machiavellian** – Machiavelli (1469-1527) was an Italian statesman and political philosopher. He is best known for *The Prince*, 1532, in which he argues that rulers may have to resort to methods that are not in themselves desirable in order to rule effectively. His name has come to represent the **use of deceit and cunning in the pursuit of personal power – Machiavellian means elaborately cunning and scheming.**

15. **Marathon** – a **long-distance running race**, strictly one of 26 miles and 385 yards or a long-lasting or **difficult task** or activity – of great duration – (in Greece, the scene of a victory over the Persians in 490 BC); the modern race is based on the tradition that a messenger ran from Marathon to Athens (22 miles) with news

16. **McCarthyism** – Joseph McCarthy (1909-57) was an American Republican senator who became chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations in 1953 and carried out a campaign against supposed communists which resulted in many citizens who were suspected of being members of the Communist Party being blacklisted and facing discrimination. His name is now evoked in the context of a **witch-hunt, especially a political one.**

17. **Meander** – from the Greek *Maiandros* (name of a river) – follow a winding course; to **wander at random**; **proceed aimlessly** or with little purpose

18. **Mesmerize** – Franz Mesmer (1734-1815) was an **Austrian physician** who had a successful practice in Vienna, where he used a number of novel treatments. He is chiefly remembered for the introduction of hypnotism, known as mesmerism, a therapeutic technique. **Mesmerize is to capture the complete attention of someone; to transfix.**

19**. Nostradamus** – is the Latinized name by which Michel de Nostredame (1503-66) is known. He was a **French astrologer and physician** and the author of *Centuries* (1555). a collection of prophecies written in rhyming quatrains. Although cryptic and obscure, Nostradamus’ verses have been interpreted as **foretelling prominent global events** over a span of more than 400 years.

20. **Sardonic** – grimly mocking or cynical – mid-17th century – from French sardonique – via Latin from Greek – Sardinia – used by Homer to describe **bitter or scornful laughter**

21. **Shanghai** – is a city in China. Shanghai means to kidnap a man for compulsory service aboard a ship, especially after drugging him. The verb shanghai stems from the former custom of kidnapping sailors to man ships going to China. It also means to induce or **compel someone to do something, especially by fraud or force**.

22. **Spartan** – The Spartans were the inhabitants of an ancient Greek city state in the southern Peloponnese. They were known for their austerity and self-discipline and their toughness in enduring pain and hardship. The Spartans were traditionally held to be indifferent to comfort or luxury. **Spartan means showing or characterized by austerity or a lack of comfort of luxury.**

23. **Stonewall** – **to hinder or obstruct by evasive, delaying tactics** – relates to Stonewall Jackson, a Confederate General at the Battle of Bull Run – “Look at Jackson’s men; they stand like a stone wall.”

24. **Swiftian** – satirical – from Jonathan Swift’s famous satire on politics: *Gulliver’s Travels*

25**. Sybaritic** – Sybaris was a Greek colony in southern Italy, founded c. 720 BC. It was an important trading center, and its wealth and luxury became proverbial, giving us the word “sybaritic.” – **fond of sensuous luxury or pleasure; self-indulgent**

26. **Thespian** – Thespis was a Greek dramatic poet of the 6th century BC and is generally regarded as the founder of Greek tragedy, having introduced the role of the actor in addition to the traditional chorus. The word Thespian means “**relating to drama or acting.”**

27. **Uncle Sam** – a **personification of the federal government or citizens of the US** – early 19th century, to have arisen as an expansion of the letters US

28. **Utopia** – literally **“No-Place” is an imaginary place or condition of ideal perfection – first used as the name of an imaginary island governed on a perfect political and social system in the book *Utopia* (1516) by Sir Thomas More - Utopian has come to mean idealistic**

29. **Wagnerian** – the German composer Richard Wagner (1813-83) developed an operatic genre which he called music drama, combining music, drama, verse, legend, and spectacle – Wagnerian is applied to anything that evokes the dramatic music, storms, and strong emotions depicted in Wagner’s operas.

30. **Waterloo** – a **decisive or final defeat or setback**, Belgian 1816, source of Napoleon’s last defeat