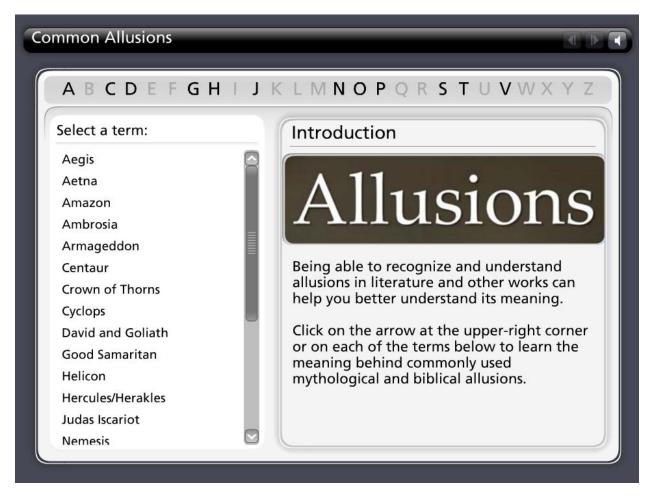
Module 3: The Influence of Faith in Colonial American Literature

Topic 4 Content: Common Allusions Notes Sheet

Introduction

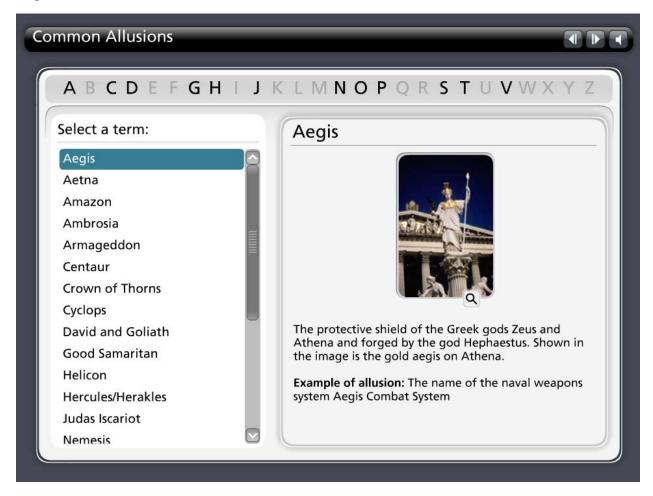


Being able to recognize and understand allusions in literature and other works can help you better understand their meanings.

Click on the arrow at the upper-right corner or on each of the terms below to learn the meaning behind commonly used mythological and biblical allusions.



Aegis

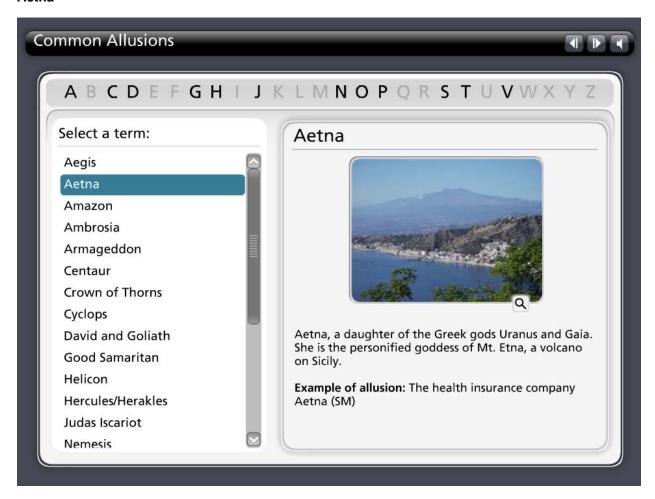


The protective shield of the Greek gods Zeus and Athena and forged by the god Hephaestus. Shown in the image is the gold aegis on Athena.

Example of allusion: The name of the naval weapons system Aegis Combat System



Aetna

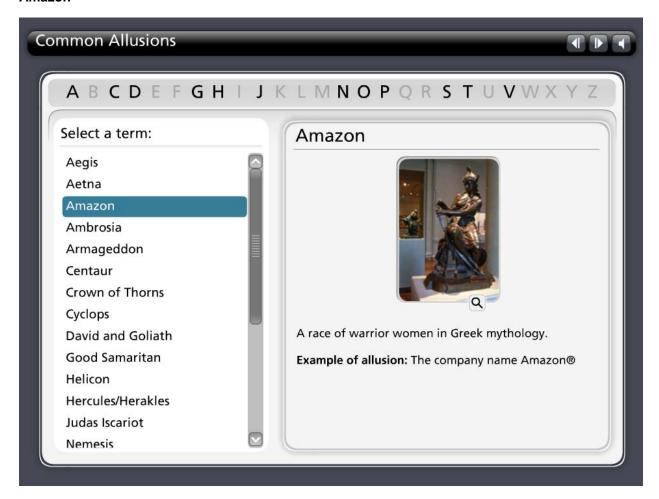


Aetna, a daughter of the Greek gods Uranus and Gaia. She is the personified goddess of Mt. Etna, a volcano on Sicily.

Example of allusion: The health insurance company Aetna (SM)



Amazon

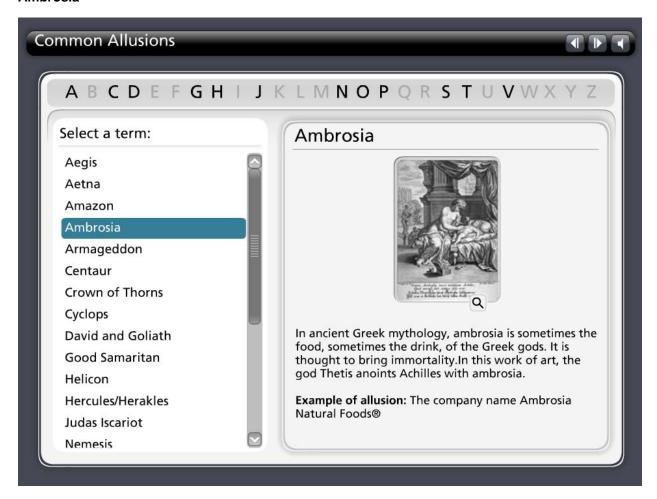


A race of warrior women in Greek mythology.

Example of allusion: The company name Amazon®



Ambrosia

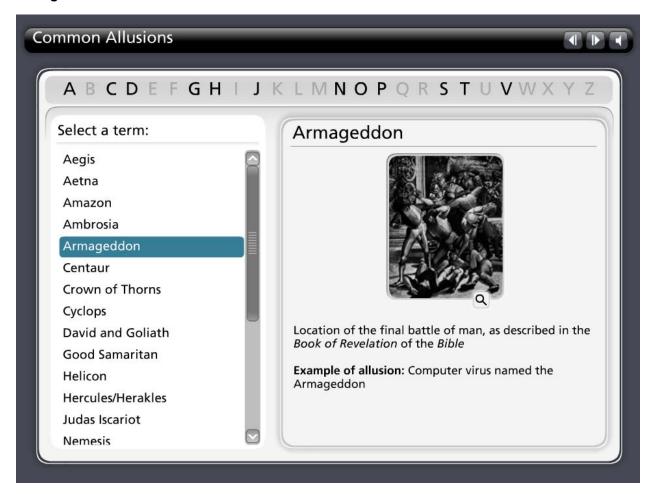


In ancient Greek mythology, ambrosia is sometimes the food, sometimes the drink, of the Greek gods. It is thought to bring immortality. In this work of art, the god Thetis anoints Achilles with ambrosia.

Example of allusion: The company name Ambrosia Natural Foods®



Armageddon

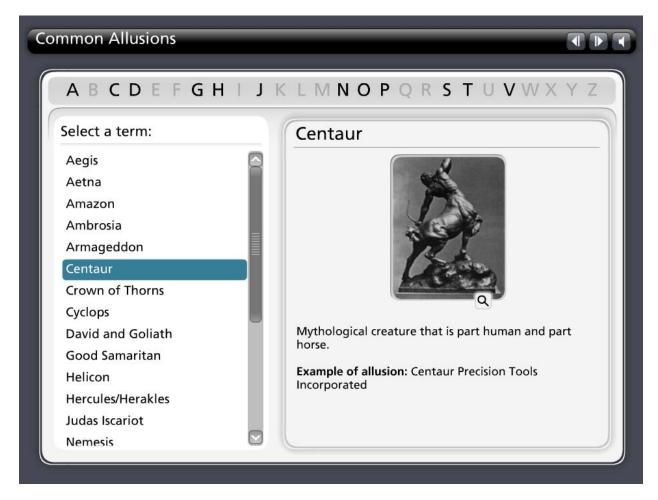


Location of the final battle of man, as described in the Book of Revelation of the Bible

Example of allusion: Computer virus named the Armageddon



Centaur

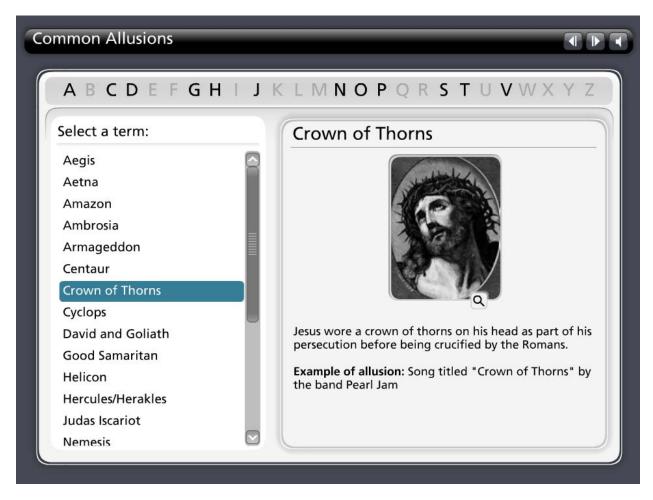


Mythological creature that is part human and part horse.

Example of allusion: Centaur Precision Tools Incorporated



Crown of Thorns

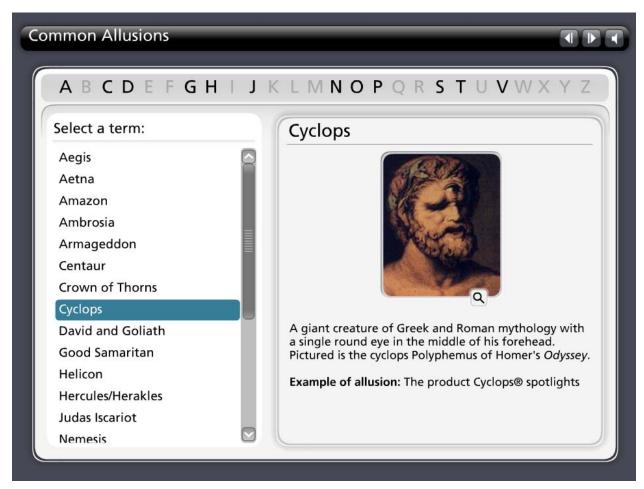


Jesus wore a crown of thorns on his head as part of his persecution before being crucified by the Romans.

Example of allusion: Song titled "Crown of Thorns" by the band Pearl Jam



Cyclops

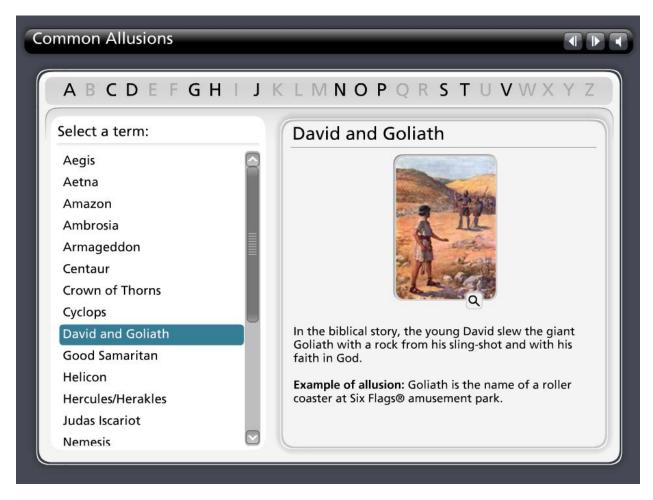


A giant creature of Greek and Roman mythology with a single round eye in the middle of his forehead. Pictured is the cyclops Polyphemus of Homer's *Odyssey*.

Example of allusion: The product Cyclops® spotlights



David and Goliath

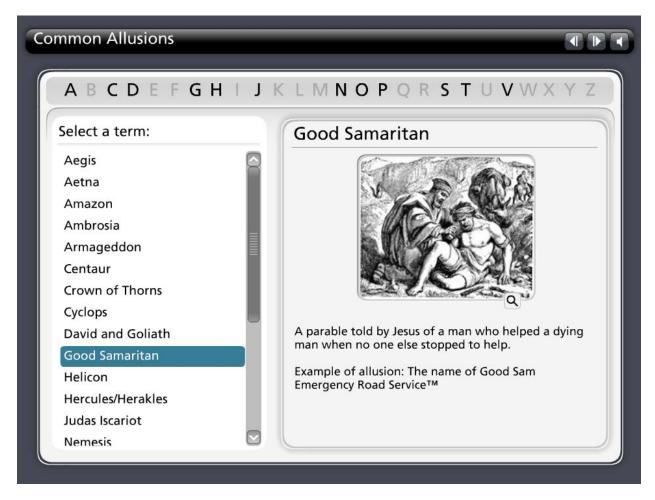


In the biblical story, the young David slew the giant Goliath with a rock from his sling-shot and with his faith in God.

Example of allusion: Goliath is the name of a roller coaster at Six Flags® amusement park.



Good Samaritan

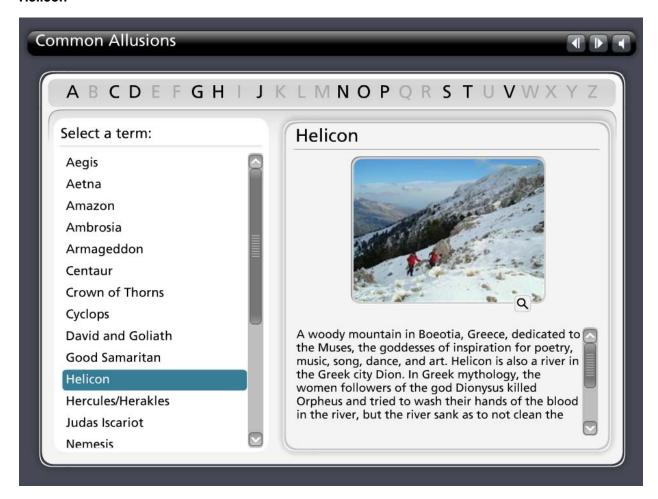


A parable told by Jesus of a man who helped a dying man when no one else stopped to help.

Example of allusion: The name of Good Sam Emergency Road ServiceTM



Helicon



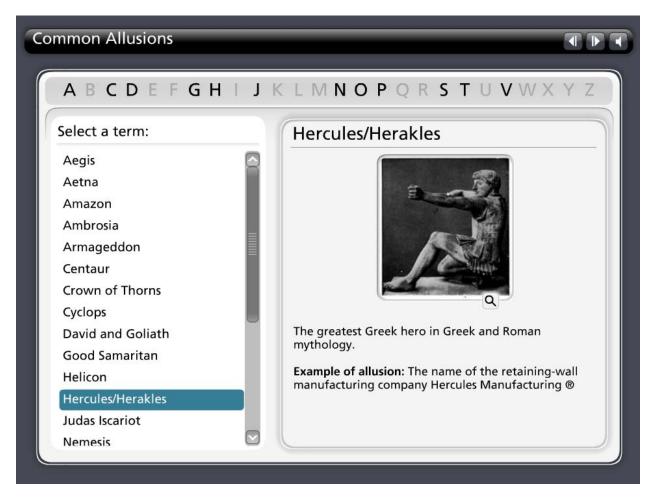
A woody mountain in Boeotia, Greece, dedicated to the Muses, the goddesses of inspiration for poetry, music, song, dance, and art. Helicon is also a river in the Greek city Dion. In Greek mythology, the women followers of the god Dionysus killed Orpheus and tried to wash their hands of the blood in the river, but the river sank as to not clean the murderous hands.

In the image, two people ascend Mount Helicon. Image source: Constantinos GOFAS

Example of allusion: The architectural company name Helicon Design Group, Incorporated



Hercules/Herakles

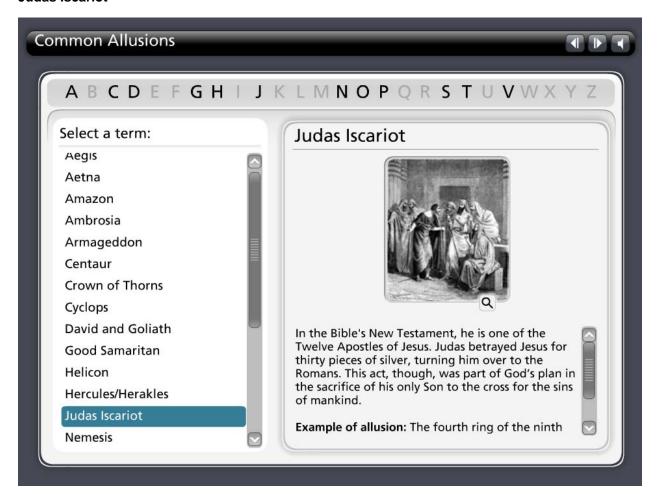


The greatest Greek hero in Greek and Roman mythology.

Example of allusion: The name of the retaining-wall manufacturing company Hercules Manufacturing ${\mathbb R}$



Judas Iscariot

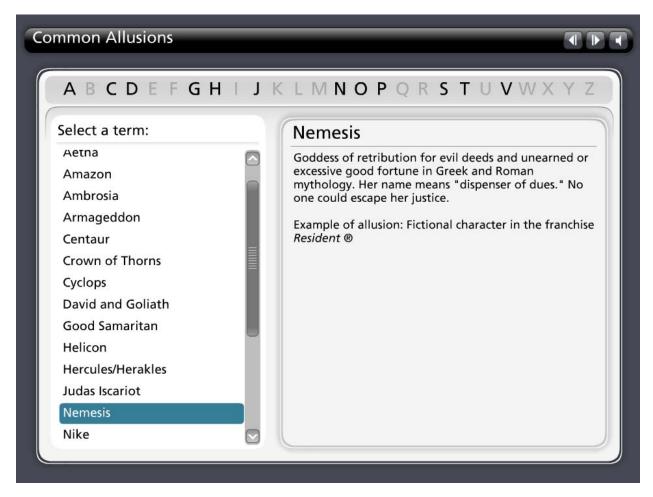


In the Bible's New Testament, he is one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, turning him over to the Romans. This act, though, was part of God's plan in the sacrifice of his only Son to the cross for the sins of mankind.

Example of allusion: The fourth ring of the ninth circle of hell in Dante's *Inferno* is named Judecca after Judas and contains those who have betrayed their masters or benefactors.



Nemesis

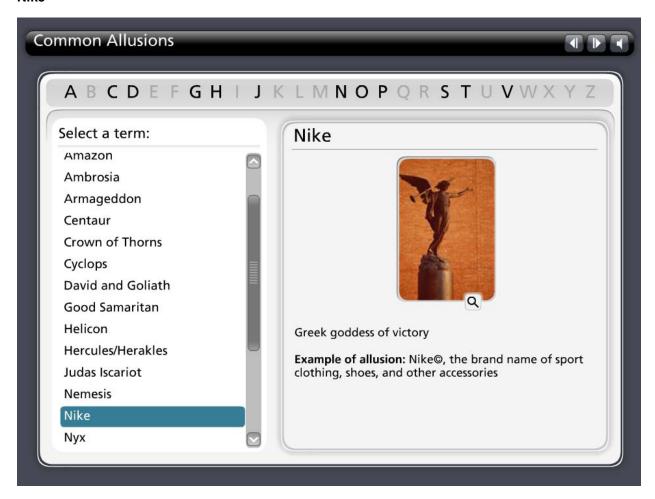


Goddess of retribution for evil deeds and unearned or excessive good fortune in Greek and Roman mythology. Her name means "dispenser of dues." No one could escape her justice.

Example of allusion: Fictional character in the franchise Resident ®



Nike

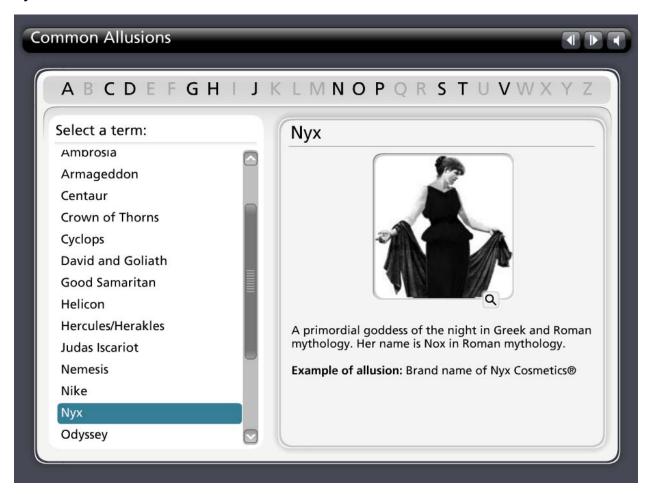


Greek goddess of victory

Example of allusion: NIKE©, the brand name of sport clothing, shoes, and other accessories



Nyx

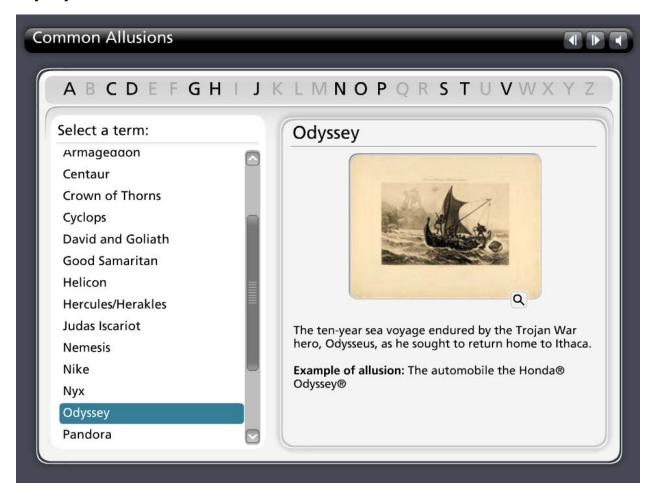


A primordial goddess of the night in Greek and Roman mythology. Her name is Nox in Roman mythology.

Example of allusion: Brand name of Nyx Cosmetics®



Odyssey

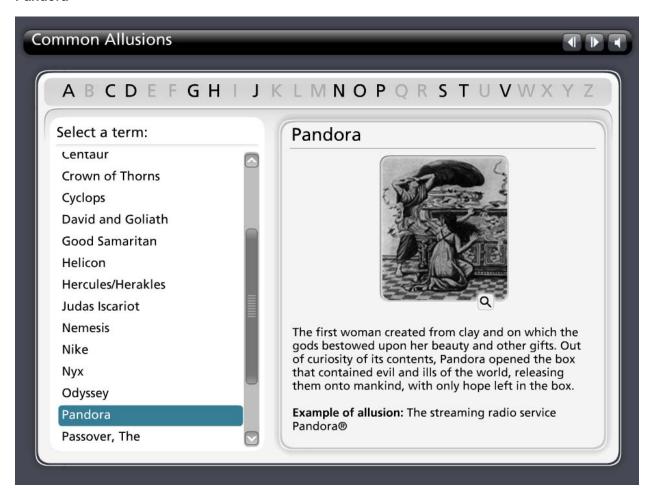


The ten-year sea voyage endured by the Trojan War hero, Odysseus, as he sought to return home to Ithaca.

Example of allusion: The automobile the Honda® Odyssey®



Pandora

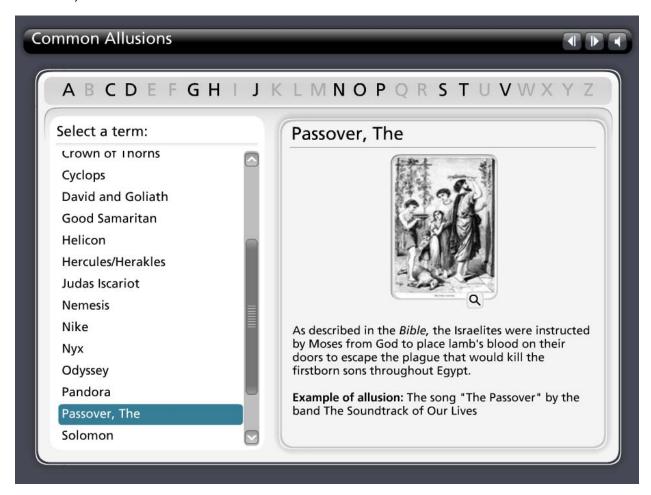


The first woman created from clay and on which the gods bestowed upon her beauty and other gifts. Out of curiosity of its contents, Pandora opened the box that contained evil and ills of the world, releasing them onto mankind, with only hope left in the box.

Example of allusion: The streaming radio service Pandora®



Passover, The

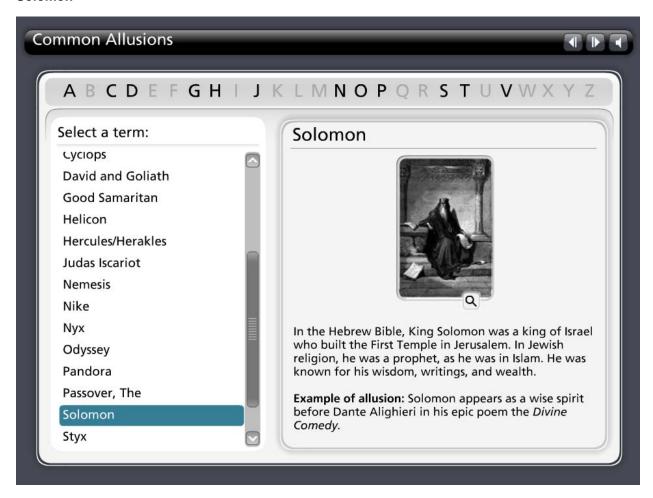


As described in the *Bible*, the Israelites were instructed by Moses from God to place lamb's blood on their doors to escape the plague that would kill the firstborn sons throughout Egypt.

Example of allusion: The song "The Passover" by the band The Soundtrack of Our Lives



Solomon

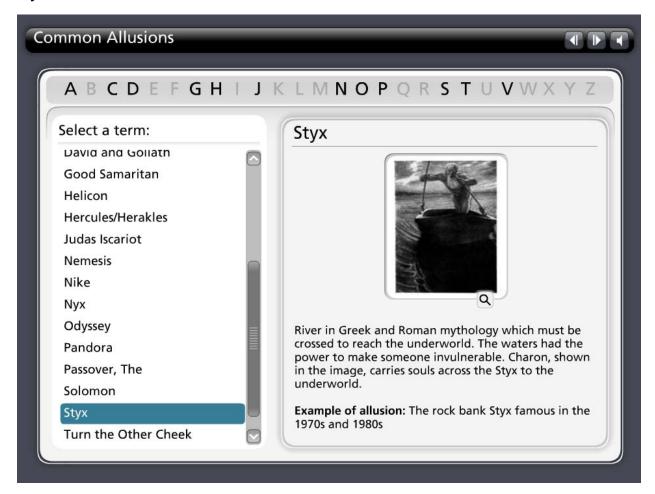


In the Hebrew Bible, King Solomon was a king of Israel who built the First Temple in Jerusalem. In Jewish religion, he was a prophet, as he was in Islam. He was known for his wisdom, writings, and wealth.

Example of allusion: Solomon appears as a wise spirit before Dante Alighieri in his epic poem the *Divine Comedy*.



Styx

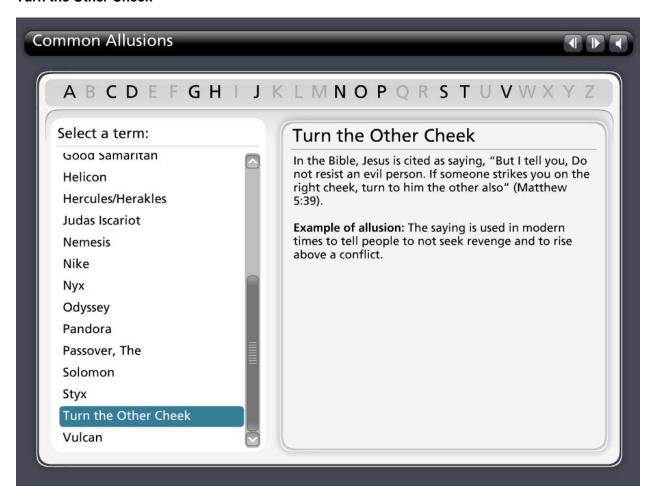


River in Greek and Roman mythology which must be crossed to reach the underworld. The waters had the power to make someone invulnerable. Charon, shown in the image, carries souls across the Styx to the underworld.

Example of allusion: The rock bank Styx famous in the 1970s and 1980s



Turn the Other Cheek

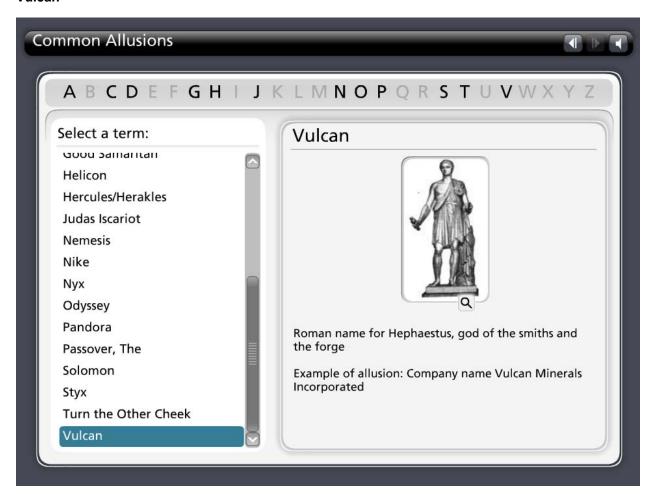


In the Bible, Jesus is cited as saying, "But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39).

Example of allusion: The saying is used in modern times to tell people to not seek revenge and to rise above a conflict.



Vulcan



Roman name for Hephaestus, god of the smiths and the forge

Example of allusion: Company name Vulcan Minerals Incorporated

