


**Module 3: The Influence of Faith on Colonial American Literature**  
**Topic 4 Content: Using Allusions**

**Introduction**

**Mary Rowlandson - Allusions and Her Faith in Captivity**

Introduction

In this learning object, you will learn more about Mary Rowlandson, her dependence upon her faith while in captivity, and how that faith influenced her use of allusions in her captivity narrative. Use the numbers or the NEXT button at the bottom to view each section.



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## The Captivity Narrative

### Mary Rowlandson - Allusions and Her Faith in Captivity

#### The Captivity Narrative



Mary Rowlandson rested on her Puritan faith during her time as a prisoner of the Wampanaog tribe of the Narragansett Native Americans. She wrote a captivity narrative, a genre unique and popular in American literature, that describes the experience of a person held by an enemy. Rowlandson's narrative describes the three months she spent in captivity after a February 1675 attack on Lancaster, Massachusetts by the Native Americans during their conflict with the colonists in King Phillip's War.

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## Taken

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In this conflict between the colonists and Native Americans over natural resources and political power, destruction took place on both sides. In the attack on Lancaster, many of the inhabitants were butchered; others, including Mary and her young daughter, were taken as slaves as the tribe fled through the wilderness, staging continued attacks and fleeing from the colonial militia.



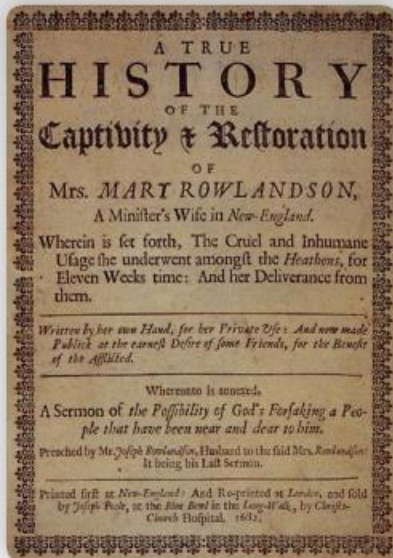
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## Writing Her Story

### Mary Rowlandson - Allusions and Her Faith in Captivity

#### Writing Her Story



When she was ransomed for twenty pounds (and some ale), Rowlandson returned to her home and wrote her story. Though Rowlandson's narrative was not the first captivity piece, it was the first one published in America and provided a model for captivity narratives to follow. The narrative includes an introduction, twenty "removes" (descriptions of moves from one place to another), and a reflection that takes place after she is returned to her husband and establishes a home in Boston.


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## Biblical Allusions

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Biblical Allusions



In addition to direct quotations from the Bible, she also makes allusions to biblical figures who faced almost insurmountable challenges. She continued to rely on her faith, even during the direst or most challenging of times. She pulled strength from biblical scripture and her relationship with God, as seen when she reads a passage from Psalm 27 of the Bible with goodwife Joslin, "Wait on the Lord, Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine Heart, wait I say on the Lord."

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