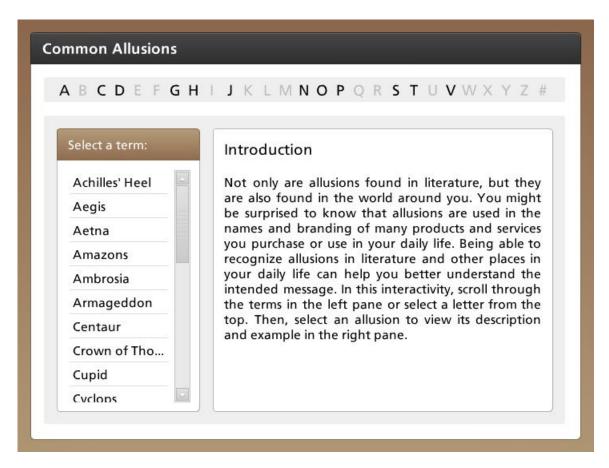
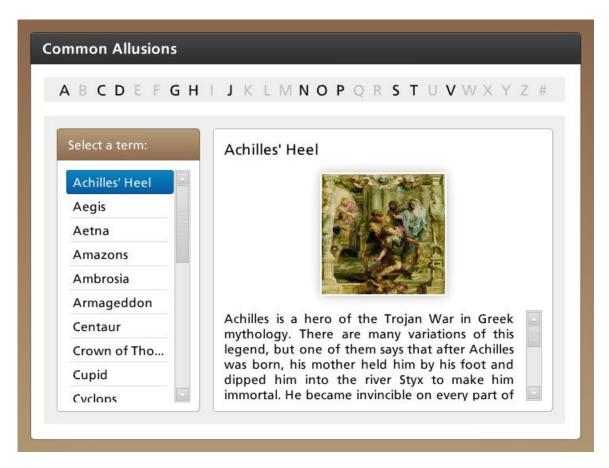
Introduction



Not only are allusions found in literature, but they are also found in the world around you. You might be surprised to know that allusions are used in the names and branding of many products and services you purchase or use in your daily life. Being able to recognize allusions in literature and other places in your daily life can help you better understand the intended message. In this interactivity, scroll through the terms in the left pane or select a letter from the top. Then, select an allusion to view its description and example in the right pane.



Achilles' Heel



Achilles is a hero of the Trojan War in Greek mythology. There are many variations of this legend, but one of them says that after Achilles was born, his mother held him by his foot and dipped him into the river Styx to make him immortal. He became invincible on every part of his body that touched the river with the exception of his one weak spot, the heel where his mother held him. After many adventures and victories, Achilles died when an arrow struck him on this one weak spot. Both Achilles and his vulnerable heel are common allusions referenced even today.

Example of allusion: the album *Achilles Heel* by the band Pedro the Lion



Aegis

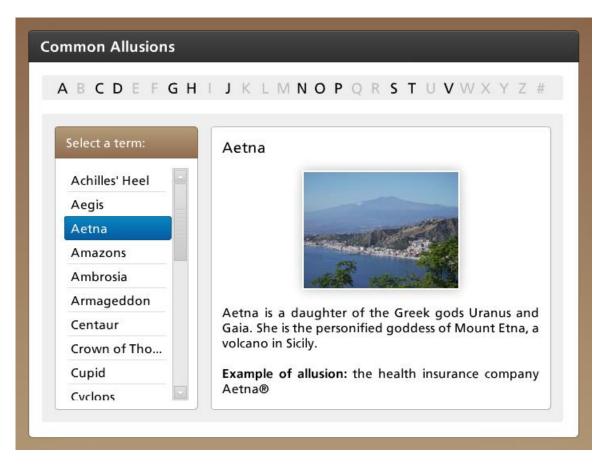


The aegis is the protective shield of the Greek gods Zeus and Athena and forged by the god Hephaestus. Shown in the image is the gold aegis on Athena.

Example of allusion: the naval weapons system Aegis Combat System



Aetna



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

Example of allusion: the health insurance company Aetna®



Amazons

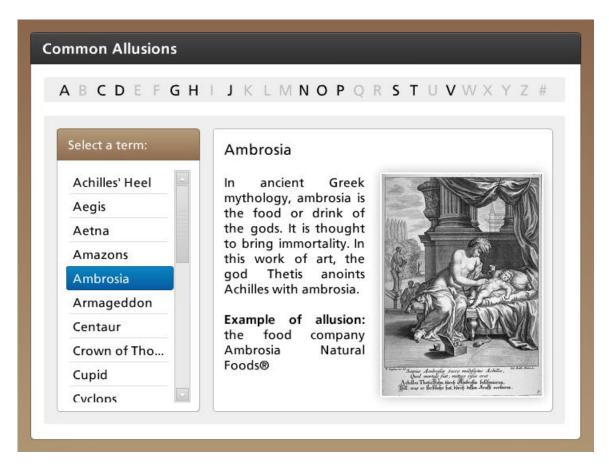


The Amazons were a race of warrior women in Greek mythology.

Example of allusion: the Internet company Amazon®



Ambrosia

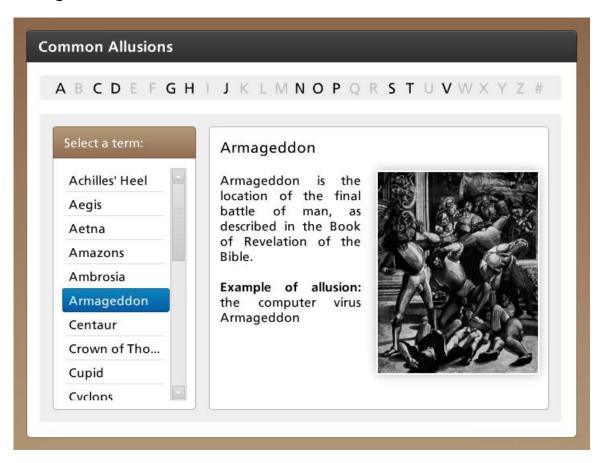


In ancient Greek mythology, ambrosia is the food or drink of the gods. It is thought to bring immortality. In this work of art, the god Thetis anoints Achilles with ambrosia.

Example of allusion: the food company Ambrosia Natural Foods®



Armageddon

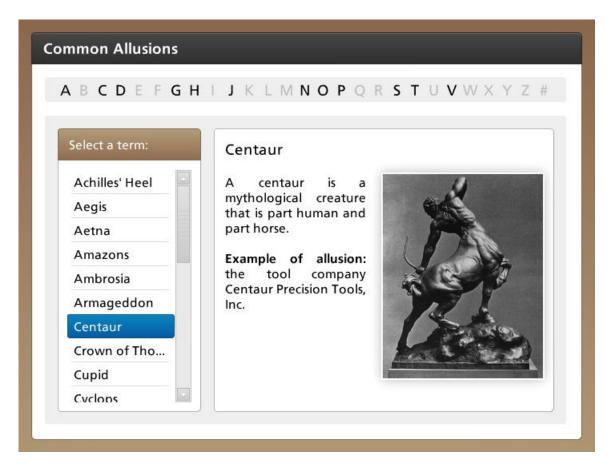


Armageddon is the location of the final battle of man, as described in the Book of Revelation of the Bible.

Example of allusion: the computer virus Armageddon



Centaur

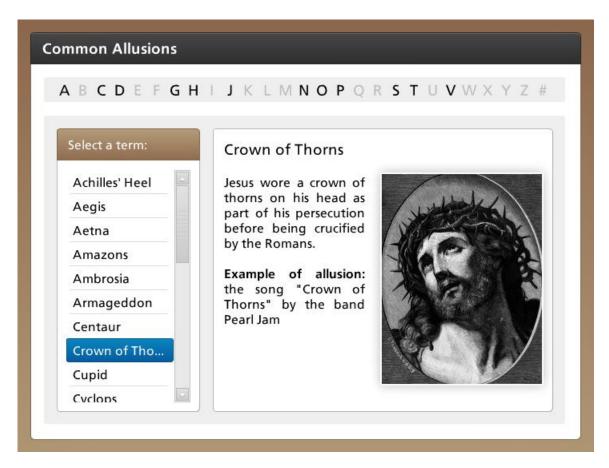


A centaur is a mythological creature that is part human and part horse.

Example of allusion: the tool company Centaur Precision Tools, Inc.



Crown of Thorns

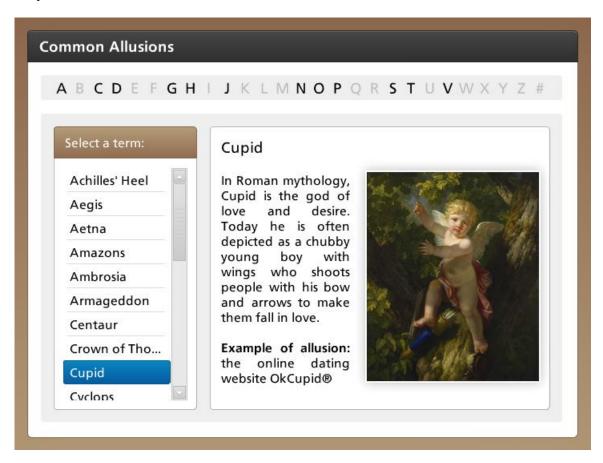


Jesus wore a crown of thorns on his head as part of his persecution before being crucified by the Romans.

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



Cupid

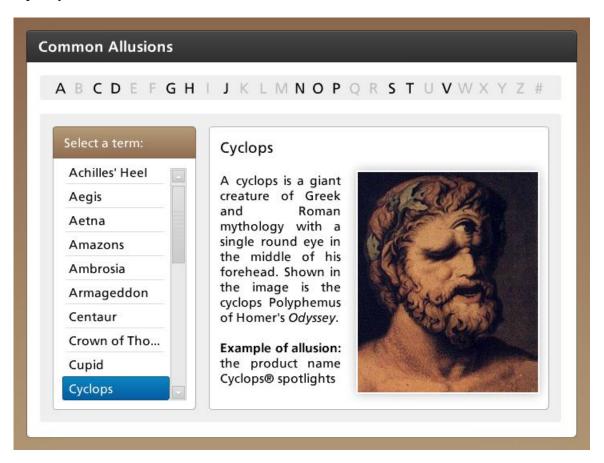


In Roman mythology, Cupid is the god of love and desire. Today he is often depicted as a chubby young boy with wings who shoots people with his bow and arrows to make them fall in love.

Example of allusion: the online dating website OkCupid®



Cyclops

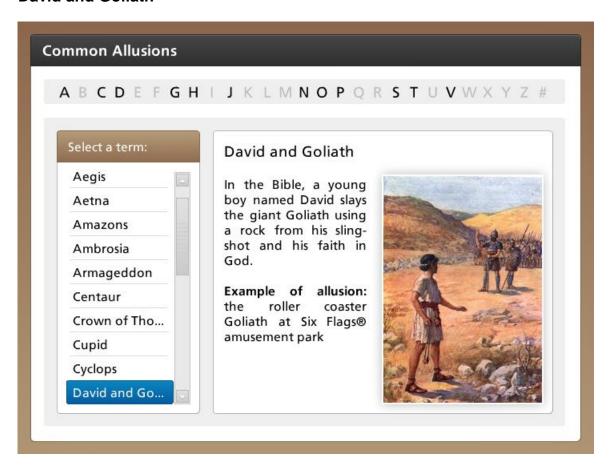


A cyclops is a giant creature of Greek and Roman mythology with a single round eye in the middle of his forehead. Shown in the image is the cyclops Polyphemus of Homer's *Odyssey*.

Example of allusion: the product name Cyclops® spotlights



David and Goliath

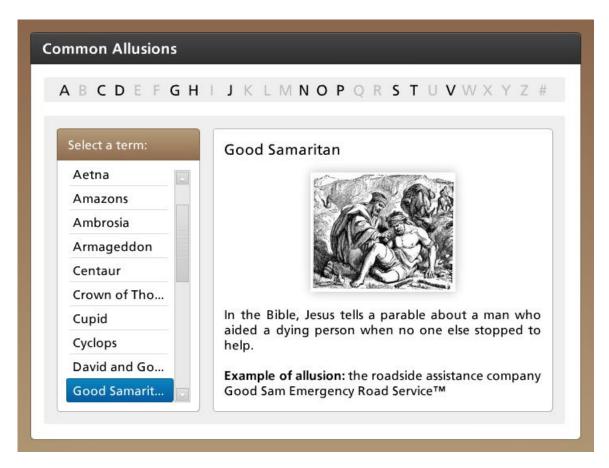


In the Bible, a young boy named David slays the giant Goliath using a rock from his sling-shot and his faith in God.

Example of allusion: the roller coaster Goliath at Six Flags® amusement park



Good Samaritan

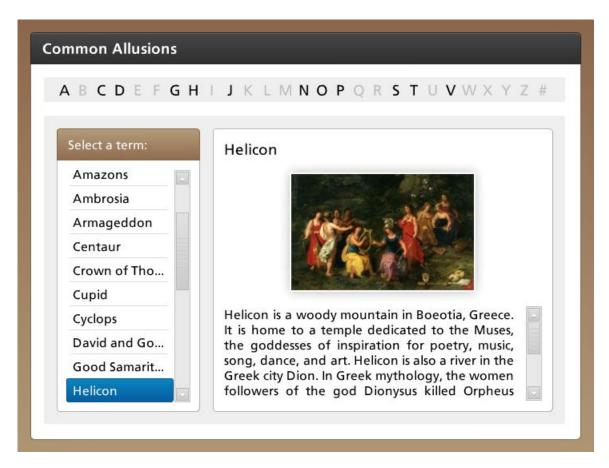


In the Bible, Jesus tells a parable about a man who aided a dying person when no one else stopped to help.

Example of allusion: the roadside assistance company Good Sam Emergency Road ServiceTM



Helicon

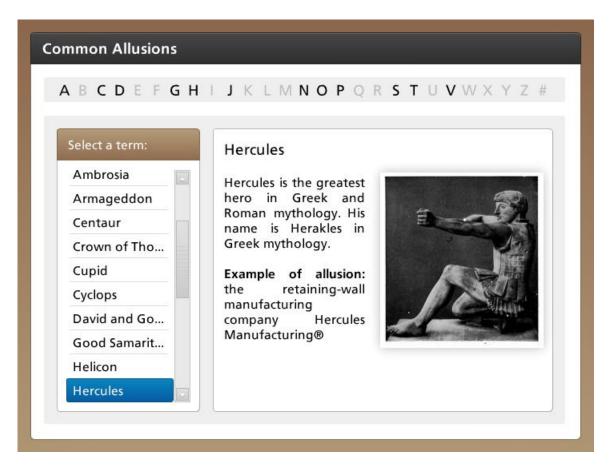


Helicon is a woody mountain in Boeotia, Greece. It is home to a temple dedicated to the Muses, the goddesses of inspiration for poetry, music, song, dance, and art. Helicon is also a river in the Greek city Dion. In Greek mythology, the women followers of the god Dionysus killed Orpheus and tried to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

Example of allusion: the architectural company Helicon Design Group, Inc.



Hercules

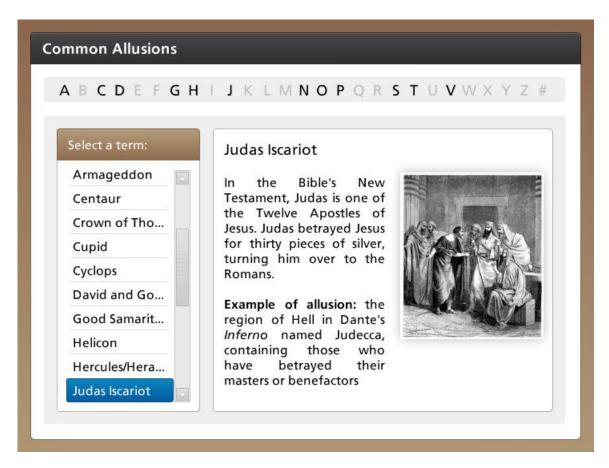


Hercules is the greatest hero in Greek and Roman mythology. His name is Herakles in Greek mythology.

Example of allusion: the retaining-wall manufacturing company Hercules Manufacturing®



Judas Iscariot

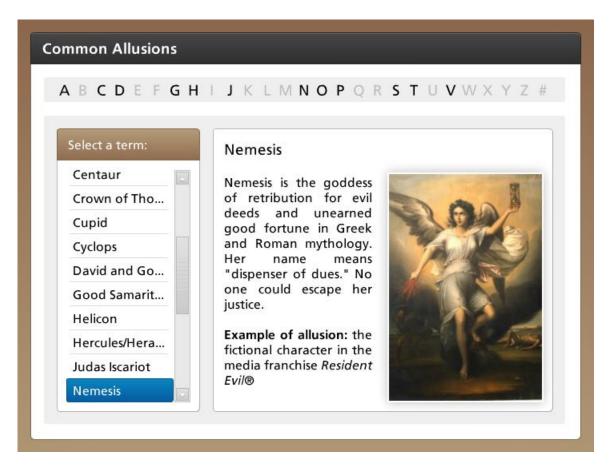


In the Bible's New Testament, Judas is one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, turning him over to the Romans.

Example of allusion: the region of Hell in Dante's *Inferno* named Judecca, containing those who have betrayed their masters or benefactors



Nemesis

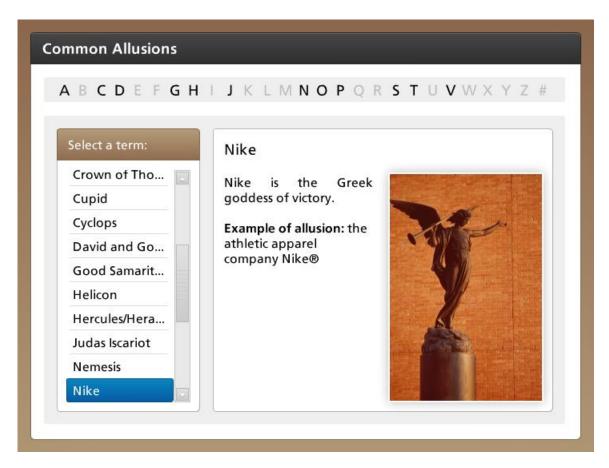


Nemesis is the goddess of retribution for evil deeds and unearned good fortune in Greek and Roman mythology. Her name means "dispenser of dues." No one could escape her justice.

Example of allusion: the fictional character in the media franchise *Resident Evil*®



Nike

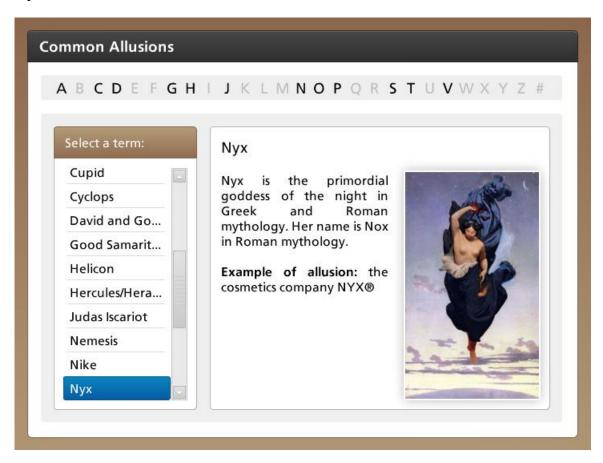


Nike is the Greek goddess of victory.

Example of allusion: the athletic apparel company Nike®



Nyx

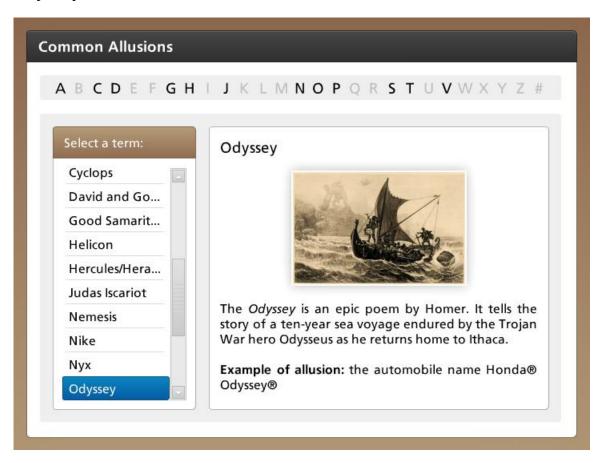


Nyx is the primordial goddess of the night in Greek and Roman mythology. Her name is Nox in Roman mythology.

Example of allusion: the cosmetics company NYX®



Odyssey

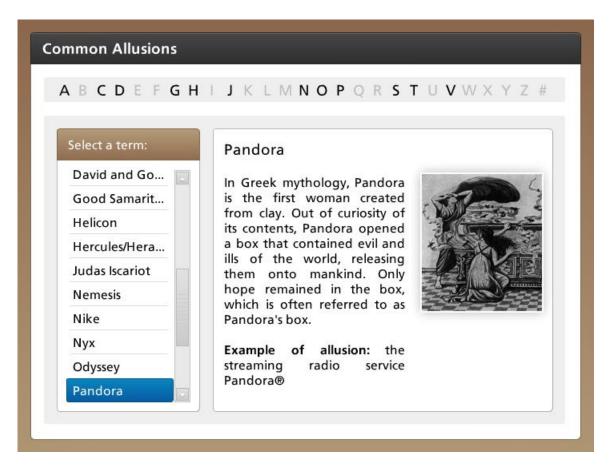


The *Odyssey* is an epic poem by Homer. It tells the story of a ten-year sea voyage endured by the Trojan War hero Odysseus as he returns home to Ithaca.

Example of allusion: the automobile name Honda® Odyssey®



Pandora

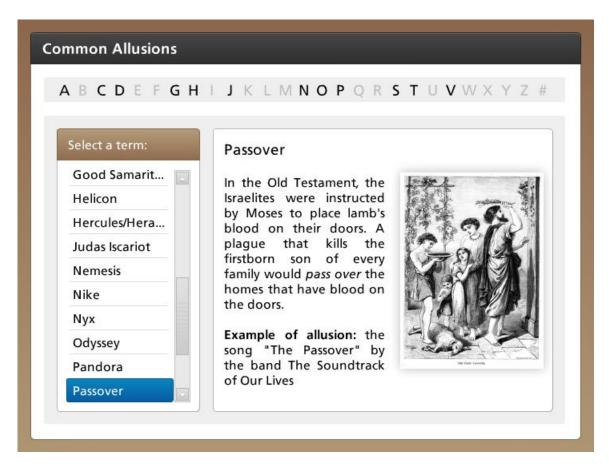


In Greek mythology, Pandora is the first woman created from clay. Out of curiosity of its contents, Pandora opened a box that contained evil and ills of the world, releasing them onto mankind. Only hope remained in the box, which is often referred to as Pandora's box.

Example of allusion: the streaming radio service Pandora®



Passover

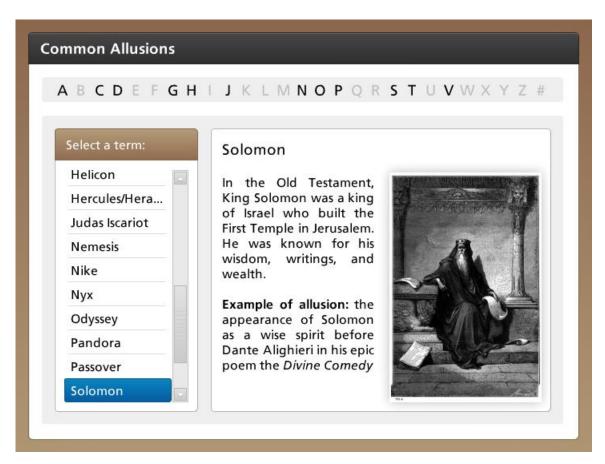


In the Old Testament, the Israelites were instructed by Moses to place lamb's blood on their doors. A plague that kills the firstborn son of every family would *pass over* the homes that have blood on the doors.

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



Solomon

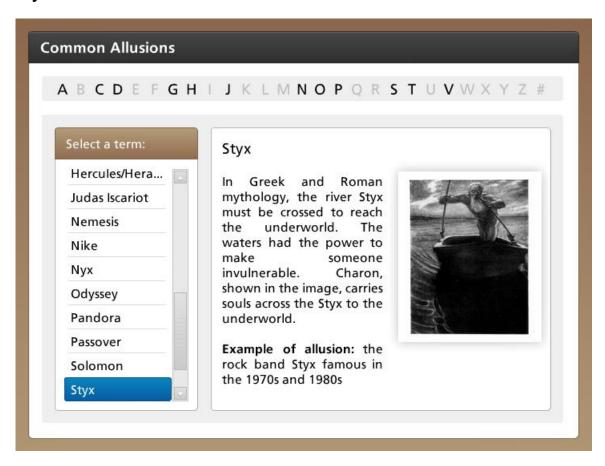


In the Old Testament, King Solomon was a king of Israel who built the First Temple in Jerusalem. He was known for his wisdom, writings, and wealth.

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



Styx

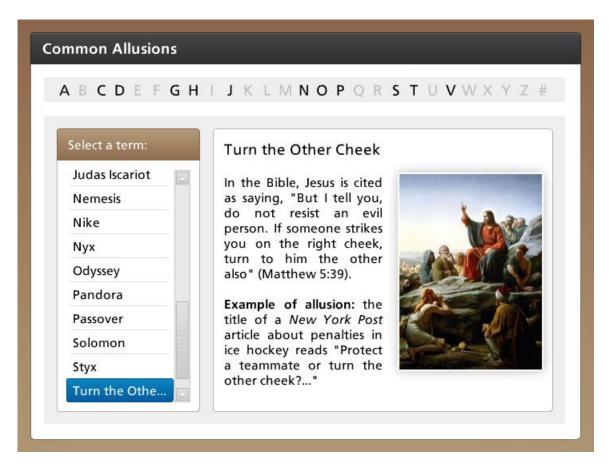


In Greek and Roman mythology, the river Styx must be crossed to reach the underworld. The waters had the power to make someone invulnerable. Charon, shown in the image, carries souls across the Styx to the underworld.

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



Turn the Other Cheek



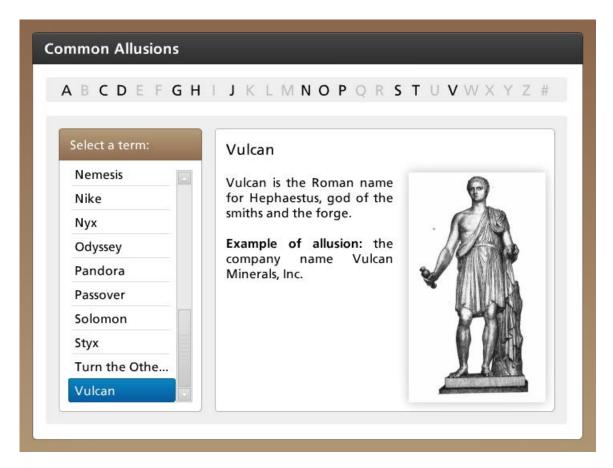
In the Bible, Jesus is cited as saying, "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also" (Matthew 5:39).

Example of allusion: the title of a *New York Post* article about penalties in ice hockey reads "Protect a teammate or turn the other cheek?..."

Source: Cyrgalis, Brett. "Protect a Teammate or Turn the Other Cheek? Vigneault Weighs in." New York Post 28 May 2015, Sports sec.



Vulcan



Vulcan is the Roman name for Hephaestus, god of the smiths and the forge.

Example of allusion: the company name Vulcan Minerals, Inc.

