

Module 4: Examining Love, Friendship, and Power
Topic 3 Content: Allusions in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"

Introduction

Allusions in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"



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Introduction


How well can you identify allusions in literature? Take a moment to review three of the allusions in Sir Walter Raleigh's poem "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd." This poem was composed as a response to Christopher Marlowe's pastoral poem "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love." In this interactivity, use the **NEXT** button or the numbered tabs to explore in greater detail some of the allusions in Raleigh's famous poem.

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"To live with thee and be thy love"

Allusions in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"



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"To live with thee and be thy love"


Because the poem "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" is a direct reply to Marlowe's poem "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love," Raleigh draws parallels between the two poems by using much of the same imagery and diction that Marlowe employs. For example, the line "To live with thee and be thy love" is a literary allusion to Marlowe's poem because Raleigh closely imitates Marlowe's phrasing in the line "Come live with me and be my love."

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Topic 3 Content: Allusions in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"

"... thy beds of roses"

Allusions in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"



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"... thy beds of roses"

The phrase "beds of roses" used in Raleigh's poem "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" is another literary allusion to Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love." Marlowe's original line says, "And I will make thee beds of roses." Countless authors in addition to Raleigh have borrowed the term *bed of roses*. First coined by Marlowe, a *bed of roses* has come to mean a luxurious and comfortable life.

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"And Philomel becometh dumb"

Allusions in "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"



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"And Philomel becometh dumb"

In Raleigh's poem "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd," the reference to Philomel, also known as Philomela, is a classical allusion to Greek mythology. Philomel was a woman whom the gods transformed into a nightingale, a bird that is known for its beautiful song. When the speaker of the poem says that "Philomel becometh dumb," she is saying that the sweet song of the nightingale will come to an end.

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