

Allusion Research Assignment

Prompt

In your analysis of Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home* (Chapters 1–3), you've examined her use of allusions to figures and works—for example, Icarus and Daedalus, the Addams Family, Albert Camus, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Portrait of a Lady*—focusing on how these references illuminate characters, relationships between characters, and overarching themes within the graphic memoir. For this assignment, you will research one of the following more subtle allusions that Bechdel makes in Chapters 1–3:

- *Anna Karenina* by Leo Tolstoy (page 3)
- *The Well of Loneliness* by Radclyffe Hall (page 75)
- Mephistopheles (page 60)
- *Don Quixote* (page 60)
- *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway (page 61)
- *Dream of a Common Language* by Adrienne Rich (page 80)
- *Zelda* by Nancy Milford (page 84)

After learning about your allusion, you will write 1–2 paragraphs in which you briefly summarize the allusion and explain how it gives deeper insight into a character, relationships between characters, and/or a theme in *Fun Home*.

Criteria for Success

- Uses at least one credible source to research the allusion
- Explains how knowledge about the allusion leads to a deeper understanding of the text
- Is free of grammatical and mechanical errors