MRS. A'S AP LITERATURE

WONDROUS ARGOSY OF ALLUSIONS
**BIBLICAL ALLUSSIONS**

**ABRAHAM AND ISAAC:** the first two patriarchs of the Old Testament. God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac. Abraham obediently placed Isaac on the altar and prepared to kill him; an angel appeared and told Abraham to spare his son. Since Abraham had proven he had proven his faith, the sacrifice was not necessary. *Abraham’s devotion to God makes him a model of faith*

**ABSAŁOM:** third son of David who was described as charming and handsome with exceptionally long hair. He kills his half-brother Amnon as revenge for the rape of his sister Tamar and flees into exile from Jerusalem. Upon his return, he rebels against David and manages to drive David out of Jerusalem. Ironically, he dies after he is caught by his long hair in the branches of a tree and is killed by one of David’s men. David greatly mourns his son’s death, although Absalom’s death can be seen as divine justice for David’s own wrongdoings.*Absalom is the archetype of the rebellious son.*

**APÓSTLES:** term used to describe the original 12 disciples of Jesus. In the biblical sense, it is used to describe anyone who has received a mission from God. *An apostle is an ardent supporter of an idea or person.*

**ARMAGEDDON:** Armageddon is the site of a climactic battle between good and evil at the end of the world. *Armageddon usually refers to any large-scale destructive conflict; for example, in modern times it is a cliché used to describe nuclear war.*

**BABEL (TOWER OF):** All of mankind was part of a single tribe and spoke a common language; they began to build a tower to reach the heavens. As punishment for their arrogance, God confused man by creating different languages, rendering the completion of the tower impossible. This explains the origin of multiple languages. *To babble means to talk foolishly. Babel is a scene of noisy confusion; it also represents arrogance and defiance of God.*

**BABYLON:** ranked as a major city and one of the wonders of the Ancient World. The New Testament describes Babylon as a city where God is not prioritized. *Babylon represents corruption and depravity. The Whore of Babylon refers to the source of false religion.*

**CAIńsk and ABEL:** Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. Abel offered to God the best and fattest of his sheep while Cain brought only a mediocre offering from his fields so God accepted Abel’s offering and not Cain’s. Out of jealousy, Cain murdered Abel and was banished by God when he asked “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Because of Cain’s fear of reprisal, God put a mark on him to protect him from anyone who wanted to kill him but also to mark him as a killer. *The Mark of Cain is a mark or brand of a criminal or outcast, a mark of shame. The story is one of sibling rivalry.*

**CROWN OF THORNS:** Jesus Christ was forced to wear a crown of thorns at His trial and crucifixion to mock his claim of being the “King of the Jews”. *Symbol of great suffering and humiliation.*

**DANIEL:** A Hebrew hostage taken to Babylon, Daniel become a prominent official because of his ability to interpret visions and dreams. Jealous men passed a law that praying to anyone other than the king was illegal; Daniel continued to pray to God and was thrown into a den of lions. Because of his faith, God sealed the lions’ mouths and Daniel was unharmed. Later, King Belshazzar hosted a banquet at which a hand appeared, writing on the wall “Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.” Daniel interpreted the words as signaling the end of the Babylonian kingdom and that night the king was killed and the city conquered by Persia. *To see the writing on the wall is to recognize the coming of an end; to be thrown into the lions’ den is to face a situation unprepared.*

**DAVID AND BATHSHEBA:** King David falls in love with Bathsheba. He arranges to have her husband Uriah sent to war to be killed so he can take Bathsheba. The couple later has a child that dies. *Displays human weakness and lust; refers to a guilty or treacherous love*
DAVID AND GOLIATH:  David was a shepherd boy who slew the Philistine giant Goliath with a slingshot. *Signifies a small, relatively powerless group or person defeating a more powerful one.

DOUBTING THOMAS:  Thomas was an apostle who didn’t believe in Christ’s resurrection until he actually saw and touched the wounds for himself. *A person who requires tangible proof or who is difficult to convince.

EXODUS:  The second book in the Old Testament, tells the story of the struggle of Moses and the Israelites in Egypt. The book includes the story of how Moses freed the Israelites, the parting of the Red Sea, the journey to the Promised Land, and the giving of the Ten Commandments. *Exodus is used to describe any mass departure or migration.

EYE OF THE NEEDLE:  "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" (MARK 10:25). Christ believed that because the wealthy were proud of their accomplishments, they were unable to recognize the necessity to be humble in the eyes of G-d. Christ explains that a camel would have more easily passed through the eye of a needle than a rich man could enter G-d’s kingdom. *Refers to a task that is extremely difficult or impossible.

FOUR HORSEMEN:  Mentioned in the book of Revelations where St. John has a divine revelation foretelling the apocalypse, or end of the world. The four horsemen are personifications of destruction: Conquest or War rides a white horse, Pestilence (sometimes Strife or Slaughter) a red horse, Famine a black horse, and Death a pale horse. *They foreshadow catastrophe.

GARDEN OF EDEN (ADAM AND EVE):  The Garden of Eden was home to Adam and Eve and the site of the biblical Creation. God made Adam and Eve and allowed them to live free of sin in the Garden of Eden, with one restriction: they were not to eat fruit from one tree, the Tree of Knowledge. After being tricked by the snake, Eve ate the forbidden fruit and convinced Adam to do the same. They acquired knowledge of good and evil and were banished from the Garden for their disobedience. This is the Fall, and their disobedience is the original sin. *The Garden of Eden is often used to refer to a place or state of supreme happiness and innocence. The snake often represents trickery and distrust. The forbidden fruit is temptation, and Adam and Eve’s story symbolizes loss of innocence.

GENESIS:  The first book of the Old Testament, includes the story of creation. *The term genesis alludes to a beginning or creation.

GETHSEMANE:  Gethsemane, described in the New Testament, was a garden located in the valley between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives where Christ and his disciples went to pray the night before Christ’s Crucifixion. The garden is also the place of the betrayal by Judas. * Gethsemane, in literature, is associated with a scene of both mental and spiritual anguish. Gethsemane is the origin of the phrase “agony in the garden.”

GOLGOTHA:  the place where Jesus was crucified; a site for executions. The Aramaic name means “the skull” *Represents a deathly place or place of suffering.

GOLDEN CALF:  While Moses was receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai, Aaron directed the Israelites to create an idol out of gold jewelry and they used this object to represent the vacant throne of God and not the deity himself. When Moses returned, he broke the tablets containing the commandments and destroyed the calf, chastising the people for worshipping the idol. *Represents a false idol, the worship of money or material goods.

GOOD SAMARITAN:  One of Jesus’ parables tells of a man who stopped on the roadside to help a victim who had been wounded by thieves and had been ignored by a priest and a Levite. The Samaritan was compassionate towards
the victim even though they were enemies and helped to bind up his wounds. *Used to describe a person who is helpful, compassionate, and selfless.

**GOOD SHEPHERD:** Jesus claims to be the “promised good shepherd” upon his return to Earth. A parable also tells the story of a shepherd who has 99 sheep safely counted for, and goes out to find the single lost sheep to return him to the herd. *Alludes to someone who takes responsibility for the welfare of others and guides them.

**JACOB AND ESAU:** Twins born to Isaac and Rebekah. Esau was the elder. Jacob wanted to inherit his brother’s birthright and deceived his brother into making a trade. Rebekah helped Jacob trick his nearly blind father into believing he was Esau and blessing him. *Jacob is alluded to as someone who tricks or deceives others to gain what he wants; sibling rivalry.

**JEZEBEL:** Wife of Ahab who used her husband’s power to establish the worship of Baal. She was a power-hungry schemer. *Represents a woman of loose morals

**JOB:** Job was a very successful and wealthy man with many children. Satan said it was easy for a wealthy man to fear God and so God allowed Satan to test Job. Throughout his trials, Job refuses to curse God and eventually his position is restored. *Job is a model of faith and representative of patience in the face of trials.

**JONAH AND THE WHALE:** God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, a sinful city, to warn them of God’s impending wrath. Jonah tried to flee on a boat, but God sent a storm on his account and the crew threw him overboard. He was swallowed by a whale and lived in its belly for three days before it spat him out on shore. God once again told Jonah to go to Nineveh. This time, Jonah obeyed and went to the wicked city. *Jonah is presented as a model of disobedience; he is associated with bad luck.

**JUDAS ISCARIOT:** The disciple who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver by identifying him to the soldiers with a kiss. *Judas represents treachery or betrayal and a “Judas kiss” alludes to false friendship. Blood money (30 pieces of silver) is money gotten through ill means.

**THE LAST SUPPER:** Jesus held a last supper with his apostles the night before his crucifixion. He broke a loaf of bread which represented his body and poured wine which symbolized his blood. *The Last Supper represents a penultimate act; communion.

**LAZARUS:** Lazarus was ill, so his two sisters sought out Jesus for help. Jesus arrived four days later, and Lazarus had already died. Jesus resurrected him from the grave. *Lazarus represents resurrection, often spiritual rebirth.

**LOT:** Lot was perceived by God as a righteous man. He lived in a sinful city, so God allowed him and his family to escape before he destroyed it. God told them not to look back. Lot obeyed, but his wife did not; as she looked behind her, she was turned into a pillar of salt. *The pillar of salt shows the consequences of disobedience or lack of faith

**LUCIFER V. SATAN:** Lucifer, whose name means “bearer of light,” is the archangel who rebelled against God. When he was defeated and cast out of Heaven into Hell, Lucifer was transformed and became known as Satan. Satan, whose name means “adversary,” is the personification of evil and the archenemy of God and humankind. Lucifer and Satan straddle the line between good and evil. While Lucifer has the potential for evil, he is still an angel; Satan resides in Hell, and is the embodiment of evil. *Lucifer is a symbol of excessive pride, rebellion, and wickedness; Satan is a symbol of evil and treachery.

**THE MAGI:** the “Three Wise Men” or “Three Kings” who followed a star to find baby Jesus in a manger/cave in Bethlehem. In Matthew, they are mysterious figures who offer gifts from the East, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were the first people to worship Jesus. *Wisdom or great faith

**MANNA:** After escaping the Egyptians, the wandered the desert for 40 years. Manna is a flaky, bread-like food that the Israelites found in the morning each day on the ground. They were to collect only enough for their families,
never more, because any extra rotted by the next day. *Manna reflects sustenance and life; an unexpected but welcome gift.

MARY AND MARTHA: sisters of Lazarus, they invite Jesus to a dinner at their house. Mary sits next to Jesus and listens to his stories and preaching, while Martha bustles around the house, preparing the meal and doing chores. *Represent two different approaches: Mary is “being” or the contemplative life of faith and Martha is “doing” and is associated with excessive concern about domestic affairs.

MARY MAGDALENE: appears in the Bible in Luke and John. Often assumed to be a prostitute. After Jesus expelled seven devils out of her, she became a fervent believer and follower, washing his feet with her hair. She was the first to see him after his resurrection, and tells the disciples that she had seen Jesus. *Shows that any sinner can be forgiven

MOSES: the leader of the Israelites, his story is catalogued in Exodus and Deuteronomy. As a baby, he floated in a basket on the Nile and was found by the Pharaoh’s daughter, who raised him as a prince of Egypt. Fleeing Egypt after killing a man, he discovers his true identity. God speaks to him from a burning bush and tells him to free his people from the Pharaoh. The Pharaoh refuses and so Egypt is visited with 10 plagues. Moses leads the Jews out of Egypt; the Egyptian army follows and so God parts the Red Sea to allow Moses and his people to pass and closes the waters over the Egyptians. Moses and the Israelites wander the desert for 40 years; at Mount Sinai Moses receives the Ten Commandments and eventually leads the people to Canaan, the Promised Land. *Moses is the intermediary between the Israelites and God. He also embodies piety and duty. The burning bush represents revelation or enlightenment; to part the sea or to part the waters is to perform a seemingly impossible task; the Promised land is any place where one anticipates joy or success.

NATIVE: The story of Christ’s birth: Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable, where Christ was born. Can refer to a Christmas scene that depicts the Christ in a manger surrounded by 3 shepherds, Mary, Joseph, and animals. *birth.

NOAH AND THE FLOOD: The people of the world had become immoral and God decided to cleanse the corruption and purify the earth with a great flood. Noah was a righteous man whom God chose to save from the flood that covered the earth. He built an ark and took his family and animals two by two just as God had commanded him to do. After the deluge, Noah sent a dove out to see if it found dry land. When the dove returned with an olive branch in its beak, Noah knew that the flood was ended and God’s wrath was ended. *Noah symbolizes righteousness and is sometimes depicted as a second Adam; the dove represents peace.

OLIVE BRANCH: After the great flood, Noah sent a dove to see if the waters had subsided. The dove returned with an olive branch in her beak. *Peace; to extend the olive branch is to offer reconciliation.

PHILISTINES: They were enemies of the Hebrews, considered uncultured and brutish. *A person who is uncultured or who is hostile toward culture.

PONTIUS PILATE: Roman governor of Judea who sentenced Christ to death by crucifixion. He knew Christ was innocent but submitted to the will of the people, washing his hands of the responsibility. *A person who disavows his personal moral convictions.

PRODIGAL SON: Takes a share of his father’s money and runs off far from his father; he wastes his money on foolish things and then returns home to his father and is forgiven. *A prodigal is one who spends recklessly; the story shows that all can be forgiven.

RUTH AND NAOMI: Ruth became a widow when her husband died, but she did not desert her mother-in-law and remained by her side. They left Moab and returned to Bethlehem together. *Ruth’s devotion to Naomi makes her a model of loyalty and devotion.
SAINT STEPHEN: First Christian martyr who was stoned to death after being accused of blasphemy. His last words were to ask forgiveness for his killers. *Symbol of forgiveness.

SAMSON AND DELILAH: Samson was the last judge of Israel, known for his extreme physical strength (he is a counterpart to Hercules). His strength came from his vow to never cut his hair – this was his covenant with God. Delilah seduced Samson, learned his secret, cut his hair and gave him up to his enemies: the Philistines for money. Samson was blinded and put on public display. His hair eventually grew back, and one day when his strength had returned, he pushed out all the pillars in a temple killing Philistines and himself. *Samson is associated with strength; Delilah is a symbol of female treachery; betrayal.

SCAPEGOAT: In the Bible, a goat was sent out in the wilderness after a priest had laid all of the sins of the Israelites upon it, so that the sins would be taken away. *A scapegoat refers to anyone who takes the blame for the wrongdoings of others.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH: Two cities located near the South end of the Dead Sea, which God destroyed by fire and brimstone due to the corruption and wickedness of their inhabitants. *Symbolize depravity and corruption; human sinfulness and divine retribution.

SOLOMON: King of Israel who was famed for his wisdom and justice. Solomon solved a dispute between two prostitutes, as they were both arguing that a child was theirs. He proposed cutting the child in half, and the true mother became anxious by hearing this. Solomon is also known for building a lavish temple in Jerusalem. *Associated with wisdom; a solomonic project is majestic.

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL: One of the trees in the Garden of Eden, this is the tree from which Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit. Brings knowledge of good and evil, and the eating of the fruit brings evil into the world. *The tree of knowledge symbolizes the truth that gaining knowledge requires the loss of innocence. The fruit represents something desirable but prohibited.

TREE OF LIFE: A tree in the Garden of Eden that could confer immortality. *The gift of life; because of sin, humanity is mortal.

WALKING ON WATER: In Matthew 14:22-33, Jesus sends His disciples on a boat over the Sea of Galilee; after a storm, he comes to them walking on water. When he tells Peter to come out onto the water, Peter becomes afraid and starts to sink because he loses his faith. *To walk on water is to achieve a miraculous task; to be revered.

WHITED SEPULCHER: In Matthew 23:37, Jesus calls the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites who are like whited sepulchers, beautiful on the outside but unclean. *Represents hypocrisy.

MYTHOLOGICAL ALLUSIONS

ACHILLES' HEEL: As a baby, Achilles was held by his ankle and dipped into the River Styx to make him invincible. The only vulnerable part of him was the ankle by which he had been held. During the Trojan war, the sun god Apollo guided Paris to shoot Achilles in the heel with a poison arrow, killing him. *any point of weakness or vulnerability.

ACHERON: river in Greece. One of five rivers in the underworld of Hades where souls of the dead are carried across by Charon, the ferryman. *river of grief, associated with grief or pain.
ADONIS: Youthful and handsome vegetation god who was the consort of Aphrodite. *Associated with god-like beauty, extreme handsomeness

AEGIS: Magical breastplate or shield of Athena, Goddess of war; sometimes carried by Zeus as well. She painted an image of Gorgon to scare away enemies. *protection, support, or sponsorship

AEOLUS: God of storms and wind. Father of Boreas (north wind), Corus (northwest wind), Aquilo (west wind), Notus (southwest wind), Eurus (east wind), and Zephyrus (south wind). *associated with the ability to change an outcome or with power; Aeolian has to do with wind.

AENEAS: Trojan hero, favorite of the Romans. After carrying his father Anchises from the burning city of Troy, he was told to found a new Troy in Italy. On his journey to Italy, he fell in love with Dido (Queen of Carthage) and became distracted, but he ultimately chose his duty to Italy over love. He founded Roman culture. *Aeneas is a model of piety and familial duty; often seen as an analog to Paul and Peter.

AMAZON: Female warriors who fought against various mythological figures. In order to shoot a bow more freely, they had one breast removed. *The Amazon exemplify how females can be strong, powerful, and heroic.

AMBROSIA: The magic, honey-flavored food of the Gods that was delivered daily by doves. *any food or drink that is especially delicious.

APHRODITE/VENUS: Aphrodite is the Greek goddess of love and beauty, Venus her Roman counterpart. Symbolized by the dove, sparrow and myrtle tree. *Associated with beauty, love, and sexual desire.

APOLLO: The Greek god of prophecy, healing, archery, music, poetry, order, reason, and self-discipline. Sometimes called Phoebus or Phoebus Apollo, becomes the god of the sun. Twin of Artemis. *Associated with reason and intellect.

ARCADIA: A mountainous region in Peloponnesus of Ancient Greece famous for pastoral life, art, and poetry. *Alludes to a pastoral ideal; rural contentment and simplicity.

ARES/MARS: Ares is the Greek god of war, Mars his Roman counterpart. He was hated by many, even his parents, and was always producing tumult, terror, and discord. *Represents strength, power, destruction, and terror—the negative aspects of war; to be martial is to be aggressive or warlike.

ARGUS: A 100-eyed giant appointed by Hera to protect Io from Zeus. He always had some eyes open. *a watchful guardian.

ARTEMIS/DIANA: Twin sister of Apollo, Artemis is the Greek goddess of the moon, chastity, and the hunt. She is usually depicted with a crescent moon and a bow. She protects virgins and women in childbirth. Diana is her Roman counterpart, most strongly associated with chastity and purity. *Chastity, protection.

ASGARD: In Norse mythology, the home of the warrior gods, encircled by a protective wall. Believed to be destroyed at the end of the world and then restored to even greater glory. *A place compared to Asgard is highly protected and houses something of importance – indestructible.

ATHENE/MINERVA: Athena is the Greek goddess of wisdom and warfare and the patron of skilled craft. She became the Patron of Athens in a competition against Poseidon by creating the olive tree. She was born from the splitting of Zeus’s head during a headache. The owl is her symbol. Minerva is the Roman goddess of wisdom, arts, and science; the Romans adopted most of the Greek myths attached to Athene for Minerva. Often depicted with grey eyes. *Associated with wisdom and knowledge, and with strategy and the positive aspects of war.
ATLAS: He was a general of the Titans who fought against the Gods during the war Titanmachy. After they lost, he was forced to bear the weight of the heavens on his shoulders. His name means “the Bearer.” *Atlas is associated with physical strength; also with maps.

AVALON: A Celtic mythical island that is outside the mortal world where the apples of immortality grow. King Arthur, in some stories, was taken here at the end of his life. *Symbol of healing, often associated with heavenly place.

CASSANDRA: The most beautiful daughter of King Priam of Troy. Apollo gave her the gift of prophecy because of her beauty but when she refused his advances, he cursed her and made it so that no one would believe her predictions. *A Cassandra is one who constantly foretells disaster.

CENTAUR: A creature with head and torso of a man and the lower body of a horse. They are skilled in music, prophecy and healing. Usually wild and drunk, some like Chiron, who taught many Greek heroes, were civilized. *They represent the dual nature of man.

CERBERUS: A three-headed dog with one hundred serpents as a tail that guards the entrance to the Underworld. Cerberus could be subdued with music or food. *Symbolizes a guardian. “To give a sop to Cerberus” is to bribe one’s way out of a bad situation.

CHIMERA: A creature with the legs of a big goat, the lower parts of a snake, and the mane and head of a fire-breathing lion. *A chimera is something that exists only in the imagination; to be chimerical is to be fanciful; a chimera can refer to something with a diverse genetic constitution or to an amalgam of parts.

CIRCE: An enchantress who turned men into animals; she seduced Odysseus and turned his men into swine. *Symbolically she stands for the dangers of sexual entanglement or for a seductress.

CROESUS: He was the King of Lydia from 560 to 547 BC until the Persians defeated him. He was given credit for the creation of the first true gold coins that had ‘general circulation.’ He was extremely wealthy and also extremely pious. *Can be a symbol of piety but most often is associated with wealth – to be rich as Croesus.

CUPID / EROS: Eros is the son of Aphrodite, Cupid, his Roman counterpart, is the son of Venus. God of love. Cupid’s name was derived from the Latin word “Cupido,” which means desire. Cupid/Eros is often depicted as a winged child or baby carrying a bow and a quiver of arrows, shooting his arrows at mortals and causing immediate and intense passion and love. According to myth, he had 2 different types of arrows: leaden arrows, which created sensual desire, and golden arrows, which formed spiritual and lasting love. *Cupid/Eros is often a symbol of intense desire and sometimes a warning against temptation. Associated with lust.

Cyclops: A giant, savage, one-eyed monster. *The cyclops is associated with brute force, simple mindedness, and crude, antisocial, and sometimes unruly or psychopathic behavior; narrow-mindedness or short-sightedness.

DAEDALUS & ICARUS: Daedalus, a clever inventor, artist, and sculptor, created the labyrinth for the Minotaur. Imprisoned in the labyrinth with his son Icarus, Daedalus built two enormous pairs of wings with which to escape the island of Crete. He warned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun or the wax that held together the feathers would melt. Icarus ignored the warning, flew too close to the sun, and fell into the sea and drowned while Daedalus made it safely to shore. *Daedalus is associated with invention or ingenuity. Icarus’s fate is usually alluded to as an example of human folly and bravado, or of the callowness of youth.

DAMOCLES’ SWORD: Damocles was a member of the court of Dionysius. He believed that the life of a king was easy and full of luxury. Dionysius invited Damocles to a marvelous banquet. Damocles reveled in the riches and royal benefits surrounding him until he noticed a sword hanging directly above his head, held up by only a tiny thread. The king wanted to demonstrate that, as grand and splendid as a ruler’s life may seem, it is filled with a
constant and underlying uncertainty and danger. * The “Sword of Damocles” refers to an imminent danger, and a reminder that one should never be envious of another without being aware of their hidden burdens

**DEMETER / CERES & PERSEPHONE:** Demeter (Ceres to the Romans) is the goddess of fertility and the harvest. Hades kidnapped her daughter Persephone. A depressed and mourning Demeter roamed the earth in search for her daughter, refusing to perform her duties. Soon, the earth became barren and dead. Zeus demanded that Persephone be set free for the safety of the humans, and Hades agreed. However, before he returned Persephone to the surface, Hades tricked her into eating four pomegranate seeds, which forced a permanent tie between Persephone and the underworld. To please both Hades and Demeter, Zeus proclaimed a compromise: He stated that, since Persephone had eaten 4 seeds in the underworld, she must spend four months of the year with Hades, and remain with her mother in the land of the living for the remaining eight. Greek mythology claims that, every year, with Persephone’s descent to the underworld, Demeter stops caring for the vegetation and allows it to die until she is reunited with her daughter, creating our perception of seasons. *The story of Demeter/Ceres and Persephone is a representation of the annual process of birth, growth, death, and rebirth; a story of loss of innocence*

**DIONYSUS / BACCHUS:** The god of fertility, wine, and ecstasy. Dionysus is a complex deity, because he is associated with both productive, life-giving qualities (fertility) as well as animal-like and destructive qualities (wine and ecstasy). Bacchus is his Roman counterpart. * Bacchus is associated with excess; Dionysus is associated with the sensual and irrational impulses in man.

**ELYSIUM:** Elysium, or the Elysian fields, is a heavenly realm for the afterlife separate from the realm of Hades. According to mythology, only mortals humans related to or specifically chosen by the gods were allowed in after death. *Elysium and the Elysian fields are often references to a perfect place.

**FATES:** Spirits whom the Greeks believed determined the course of each human life in addition to influencing the destinies of other divine beings. The fates are often presented as 3 women. The first fate, Clotho, is The Spinner; the second, Lachesis, is The Apportioner; and the third, Atropos, is referred to as The Inevitable. *Allusions to the three fates are references to the unpredictability of life, the inevitability of death, and the ease with which the flame of a mortal’s life can be extinguished (like the cutting of a thread)

**FURIES:** Female spirits of vengeance and justice. The Furies were known for punishing their human victims by driving them mad, and for living in the underworld and torturing the damned. It should be noted that the Furies do not physically harm the criminals; Instead, they force them into insanity, proving that the Furies’ power is solely within the mind of the guilty. *The Furies are a symbol of the power of a guilty conscience

**GOLDEN FLEECE:** Fearing for the life of her children, Nephele requested help from the god Hermes, who sent a flying ram with golden fleece to carry them to safety in the land of Colchis. The ram was sacrificed to Zeus and the fleece placed in a sacred grove’s oak tree to be guarded by a non-sleeping dragon. Later, Jason must obtain the Golden Fleece in order to regain his throne. * The Golden Fleece symbolizes a valuable but difficult to obtain object.

**GORDIAN KNOT:** Alexander the Great assembled his army at a land called Gordium. In Gordium, there was a knot of rope with an old prophecy: “whoever could untie the rope would rule Asia.” The knot was so complex that no one could unravel it. Alexander cut the knot with his sword, giving birth to the expression “to cut the Gordian knot”, which refers to solving problems seemingly impossible to solve. *The Gordian knot symbolizes “solving unsolvable problems.”

**GORGONS:** In Greek mythology, the Gorgons were three horrifying daughters of the sea god Phorcys who lived near the setting sun. They had gigantic wings, sharp fangs and claws, bodies covered with scales that resembled those of dragons, and snakes for hair. Anyone who fell victim to their gaze turned to stone. Medusa was the only mortal Gorgon. *The Gorgons symbolize ugliness or something horrific.

**HADES:** Hades, whose name is the Greek name for both the underworld and its ruler, is a “shadowy god in Greece. Pitiless but not unjust. Also associated with wealth because he rules over the minerals of the earth. *Hades is associated with Hell and the underworld.
**HARPIES:** Known for their horrendous appearance and smell, the Harpies were female monsters who represented stormy weather and who constantly caused mischief and misfortune. They had the faces, hair, and upper bodies of women, but the wings, legs, tails, and talons of birds of prey. "Harpies" means “snatchers.” *A harpy is an unpleasant or overbearing woman.*

**HECTOR:** In Greek mythology, Hector was the elder son of Troy’s King Priam and Hecuba. As a Trojan warrior, he fought against the Greeks in the Trojan War and was eventually killed by Achilles. *Hector symbolizes courage and bravery.*

**HELEN:** Daughter of Zeuz and Leda, she is often referred to as the face that launched a thousand ships. Menelaus, prince of Mycenae, was Helen’s husband. Paris, a prince of Troy, steals her away from Menelaus while he is away in Crete, and the two return to Troy. Whether Helen went willingly with Paris is unclear. Paris’ abduction of Helen emphasizes the age-old idea of women as trophies or prizes, for Helen is viewed as an object by Menelaus, who reacts as though Paris has stolen his property. *Helen represents female beauty.*

**HEPHAESTUS/VULCAN:** Hephaestus is the Greek counterpart to Vulcan, god of fire and metal crafts. He was frequently ridiculed by other Olympic gods for being lame and ugly, and he therefore often wished to punish those who mocked and verbally abused him. He created Pandora and the aegis. Married to Aphrodite, who often betrayed him. *patron of cuckolds; associated with ingenuity and mechanical skill.*

**HERA/JUNO:** Hera was the sister and wife of Zeus, and was often jealous of her husband’s numerous relationships with other women; she frequently tormented those with whom Zeus had affairs. She was considered by the Greeks a guardian of marriage, childbirth, and women. Juno is her Roman counterpart. The peacock is her symbol. *Hera is most associated with jealousy.*

**HERCULES:** A demigod son of Zeus, Hercules (Herakles in Greek) had tremendous physical strength. After he went mad and killed his family, he had to perform twelve labors in order to regain his virtue; these twelve tasks were deemed impossible. *Hercules is associated with physical strength. A herculean task is an extremely difficult one.*

**HERMES/MERCURY:** Hermes is the fleet–footed messenger of the gods in Greek mythology. He was identified with Mercury, the Roman god of merchants and trade. Looked upon as a bringer of good luck and protector of travelers, merchants, and thieves, he is usually depicted with winged shoes and a staff with two snakes entwined around it. *Associated with speed, cunning, and trickery. To be mercurial is to be unpredictable.*

**HYDRA:** A nine-headed creature that lived in a swamp whose heads would grow back if cut off. *refers to a problem that cannot be easily solved.*

**JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS:** Leader of the adventurers named the Argonauts. Jason’s true goal was to become king the Argonauts on the quest for the Golden Fleece. Argonauts were named after the Argo, the ship Jason used with the Argonauts to travel on their adventure. *An Argonaut is an adventurer. Jason’s story is associated with jealousy and family loyalty.*

**KALI:** In Hindu mythology she is the wife of Shiva (god of destruction, usually depicted with four arms) and is known for her bloodthirstiness. *associated with violence, darkness, and bloodthirstiness; the personification of evil.*

**LEDA AND THE SWAN:** In Greek mythology, Zeus appears to Leda in the form of a swan and seduces her. Helen is the result of this union. *alluded to when referring to being overpowered by sexual desire.*

**LETHE:** In Greek mythology, the Lethe is one of the rivers of the underworld, whose water caused the people who drank from it to lose memory of their past life. *Represents oblivion or forgetfulness; to be lethargic is to be sluggish.*
LOKI: In Norse/Scandinavian mythology, Loki is god of mischief. Although he lived in Asgard, he was not considered divine. *associated with trickery.

MIDAS: King of Phrygia, he was granted a wish that anything he touched would turn to gold; he can no longer eat as his food turns to gold, and he turns his daughter into gold. He begs to lose the power and that wish is granted. *The story teaches us to be careful what we wish for; to have the Midas touch is to make money with seemingly little effort.

MORPHEUS: Ovid’s name for son of sleep and god of dreams. *Greek word morphe means “form”; changing form – associated with mutability.

MUSES: nine daughters of Zeus and Mnemosyne, they were the goddesses of intellect and creative ability and provided inspiration to mortals. *A muse is a source of inspiration.

NARCISUS: a beautiful youth who rejected all the nymphs who loved him. Nemesis punished him by making him fall in love with his own reflection so he would feel what it was to love something with no return of affection. *epitome of vanity, source of the term narcissism.

NEMESIS: Goddess of retribution and vengeance, and a symbol of justice. *the inescapable agent of one’s downfall.

NIOBE: Daughter of Tantalus, she was punished for being greedy and boasting of having many children. The gods killed her children and she was turned into a stone. *Niobe is associated with extreme sorrow and mourning.

NYMPH: Minor nature deities in the form of beautiful maidens. *associated with feminine beauty, usually in reference to a young girl.

ODIN: In Norse/Scandinavian god of wisdom, poetry, war, and agriculture; became the All-wise by drinking from Mimir’s fountain at the cost of losing one eye. *symbol of wisdom; knowledge comes at a cost

ODYSSEUS: cunning hero of Homer’s Odyssey and of the Trojan War, he overcame constant trials in his ten-year journey home. *Associated with adventure and ingenuity. An odyssey is a long adventure.

OEDIPUS (COMPLEX): a son’s feeling of love toward his mother and jealousy/hate towards his father. Freud based this theory on the story of Oedipus fulfilled a prophecy that he would grow up to kill his father and marry his mother. *Refers to a strong attachment to the parent of the opposite sex

OLYMPUS: A mountain that is the home of the Greek gods and goddesses. *associated with power

ORPHEUS & EURYDICE: two characters in Greek mythology. Orpheus is a son of the god Apollo and is married to the nymph, Eurydice. Eurydice dies by stepping on a poisonous snake while attempting to escape being raped by Aristaeus. Orpheus goes to the underworld to bring Eurydice back and charms Hades and Persephone (king and queen of the underworld) with his lyre and they allow him to take her back, but if he looks back at her before reaching the upperworld, he will lose her. He can’t resist looking back and therefore loses his love. *Shows the consequences of disobeying the gods and of impatience; Orpheus is associated with musical ability.

OSIRIS: Egyptian god of the sky and of the afterlife. Osiris is killed by his brother and brought back to life by his wife. *Associated with resurrection, and also with judgment.
PAN: Arcadian god of flocks, fertility, shepherds, forests, and wild life. He is a satyr, a horned man with a beard and with the legs and feet of a goat. Usually depicted with a garland, syrinx pipes, and a shepherd’s crook. In Christianity, he is associated with Satan. *Associated with nature and with the pre-Christian world.

PANDORA: In Greek mythology, the first woman, very beautiful, created by the Gods as a punishment for men. She had a box containing all the evils of the world and was told not to open it. Out of curiosity, she opened the box, unleashing evil into the world, though hope remained. She is an analog to Eve. *Associated with curiosity and shows its consequences.

PARNASSUS: mountain of Phoas, near Delphi, that was dedicated to Apollo, the Muses, and Dionysus and was the home of the oracle of Apollo. Home of music and poetry. *Represents inspiration.

PEGASUS: winged horse in Greek mythology that spouted from the blood of Medusa. Captured by Bellerophon, but threw Bellerophon off when he tried to ride Pegasus to Mt. Olympus. Pegasus struck a hoof on Mount Helicon, where the muses lived. *Represents inspiration and faithfulness.

PHOENIX: a legendary bird in Greek, Roman, and Egyptian mythology that lives 500 years, combusts, and is then reborn from its own ashes. *The phoenix is associated with immortality or resurrection. To rise from the ashes is to make a miraculous comeback.

POSEIDON/NEPTUNE: Greek/Roman god of the sea and of horses. He is characterized by his blue hair and his trident. Described as violent and ill-tempered, associated with earthquakes. *Associated with the power of water, power and command, and with unpredictability.

PROMETHEUS: Titan who stole fire from Olympus and gave it to mankind; taught humans many skills and so was punished by Zeus for defying the gods. *Associated with life and vitality; inspiration is often referred to as Promethean fire; archetype of the rebel-hero (important figure for the Romantics)

PROTEUS: He was one of several sea gods. He was extremely wise, knew everything, and he could foresee the future, but he would not help humans without coercion. He also had an ability to turn himself into any plants or animals he chose. Proteus only shared his prophetic counsel if a human was able to hold whatever Proteus changed into tightly until he turned into his true shape. *Proteus represents knowledge; to be protean is to be versatile or mutable.

PSYCHE: She was so beautiful that Aphrodite herself became jealous of her. Eros, Aphrodite’s son, was sent to make Psyche fall in love with an ugly man. However, Eros himself fell in love with Psyche. He forbade her to see his face. Her sisters tricked her into looking at his face and Eros fled. Eventually Psyche was granted immortality so that she would not cause problems. *Psyche is associated with the soul.

PYGMALION: He was a very talented sculptor who created a statue of a woman so beautiful, Pygmalion himself fell in love with it. He went to the temple of Aphrodite to pray for a wife just like the statue and Aphrodite brought the statue to life. *Represents transformation and the rewards of faith.

ROMULUS & REMUS: They are twin sons of Rhea Silvia and Mars. They were, together with their mother, cast into the Tiber. Romulus and Remus were later rescued by a she-wolf. After they reached adulthood, Remus was killed by Romulus during a quarrel to decide where to build a settlement. Romulus later named the settlement Rome after himself. *Explains the creation of Rome; a story of sibling rivalry.

SATYRS: Forest gods who are half man and half goat. They accompany the god of wine, Dionysus, and usually spend time drinking, dancing, and chasing nymphs. *Associated with lust.
**SCYLLA & CHARYBDIS:** Two nymphs who were turned into monsters on either side of a narrow strait. Scylla crouched on a mountain and snatched sailors who got too close. Charybdis drank massive amounts of water, causing whirlpools. *To be caught between Scylla and Charybdis is to be between a rock and a hard place – avoidance of one danger exposes one to another.

**SIBYL:** Prophetess endowed with the gift of prophecy by Apollo. There were numerous sibyls; the prophecies would be given as ambiguous riddles. *associated with ambiguity.

**SIRENS:** They are creatures with head of female and body of a bird. With the irresistible charm of their song, and their words that were even more enticing than the melody, they lured mariners to death. *represent temptation.

**SISYPHUS:** King of Corinth who committed many crimes and tricked the gods. As punishment, he had to roll a boulder up a hill; each time he reached the top, the boulder would roll back to the bottom. Associated with fruitless labor; for the existentialists, a symbol of the human condition.

**SPARTA/SPARTANS:** The ruling class of Sparta devoted itself to war and diplomacy, deliberately neglecting the arts, philosophy, and literature. The Spartans were noted for bravery, frugality, and stern self-discipline. *Refers to frugality, courage, and stern discipline.

**STYX:** A river whose name means “hated.” It encircled Hades, forming a barrier between the living and the dead and the only way to cross it was with the help of the ferryman, Charon. *symbolizes the boundary between the living and the dead.

**TANTALUS:** He killed and served his son Pelops at one of the gods’ banquets to prove they could not tell the difference between human and animal flesh. As punishment, he was sent to Tartarus, the lowest section of Hades. He was immersed in a pool of water near a fruit tree but was unable to slake his thirst or his hunger. *Origin of tantalize, to torment or tease with the unattainable.

**THOR:** In Norse/Scandinavian mythology, Thor is the son of Odin and the god of thunder, war, weather, and horses. He is represented as a man of great strength and power, wielding a hammer called Mjolnir. He was an implacable foe to the harmful race of giants but benevolent towards mankind. *Represents strength and protection. Mjolnir often symbolizes life and fertility. Hero/protector of farmers and common men.

**TITANS:** In Greek mythology, the older gods who preceded the Olympians. They overthrew their father Uranus and were in turn defeated by their own children, the Olympians, led by Zeus. *A titan is a person of great strength and power.

**TROJAN HORSE:** The Trojan Horse was a huge wooden and hollow horse that the Greeks constructed to gain entrance to Troy during the Trojan War. The Greeks pretended to abandon the war and left behind one man to persuade the Trojans that the horse was an offering to Athena and would make their city invulnerable. When the Trojans brought the horse into the city, the Greek warriors hidden inside emerged and let in the remainder of their army. *Refers to a subversive trick.

**VALHALLA:** In Norse mythology, Valhalla is the great banqueting hall in Asgard where heroic warriors slain in battle were brought to enjoy a glorious afterlife and to await Ragnarok, the final battle between the gods and the forces of evil, when they would join the gods. *a symbol of pride and honor, represents the rewards of bravery and an ideal warrior life.

**VALKYRIES:** In Norse/Scandinavian mythology, the handmaidens of Odin who are the “choosers of the slain.” They are depicted as beautiful, armor-clad female warriors who selected the bravest slain warriors to enter Valhalla. They directed the course of battles and tended to the spirits of the slain. *Associated with the carnage of battle and the release of the soul. Represent the Norse ideal of womanhood.
**ZEUS/JUPITER:** Zeus is the chief god of the Greek pantheon; Jupiter is his Roman counterpart. His symbols are the eagle and the oak tree; he is often depicted with a thunderbolt and with the aegis. *Represents power and authority.

**ALLUSIONS FROM LITERATURE AND HISTORY**

**ALBATROSS:** a bird that sailors considered lucky. In Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s poem “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” a sailor finds himself cursed after he kills an albatross and is forced to wear the albatross around his neck as penance. *Represents a psychological burden

**BENEDICT ARNOLD:** American general who distinguished himself in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Having gotten heavily into debt and feeling embittered toward Congress, he then changed allegiances and plotted to hand over the fort of West Point, New York, to the British. *His name has become synonymous with traitor.

**BLUEBEARD:** The villain in the fairy tale (1697) by French writer Charles Perrault, in which Bluebeard is a rich but very ugly noble with a blue beard who murders six wives before the seventh manages to escape. *A cautionary tale against curiosity.

**BORGIJA:** The Borgia family wielded immense power in renaissance Italy. The fondness of the Borgias for disposing of enemies by making them fake pledges in poisoned wine prompted the metaphorical glass of wine with the Borgias, signifying a “fatal honor” of some kind. *Symbolic of unbridled power, lust, and greed; treachery.

**BOSWELL:** James Boswell (1740-1795) was a Scottish writer who compiled a detailed biography of the celebrated lexicographer Samuel Johnson (1709-1784), recording his conversations and describing his travels around the British Isles. *A person who records the events of another’s life, especially one who knows his subject intimately

**BROBDINGNAG:** In Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, this is the land of the giants. *describes something of colossal scale.

**BRUTUS (“Et tu, Brute”):** Brutus was a Roman politician. A friend of Julius Caesar, he was one of the leaders of the conspiracy to assassinate Caesar. Caesar allegedly said “Et tu, Brute?” (And you too, Brutus) when he discovered Brutus among his murderers on the Ides of March in 44 B.C. *The expression is one of reproachful surprise at a betrayal (usually a relatively minor act of disloyalty) by a friend or a colleague

**CASANOVA:** Giovanni Jacopo Casanova was a Venetian adventurer and conman who acquired a notorious reputation as a libertine whose many sexual conquests were recorded in his “Scandalous Memoirs” (1826-1838). *A prolific seducer of women

**CINDERELLA:** The allusion is to the traditional fairy tale about Cinderella, a young girl who is mistreated by her stepsisters until enabled by her fairy godmother to go to the royal ball and there win the heart of Prince Charming. *A Cinderella story is one in which a person who has previously failed to make much of an impact is suddenly transformed into a great success.

**DON JUAN:** Son of a prominent 14th century family in Seville, Don Juan has a reputation for seducing women. In Tirso De Molina’s *El Burlador de Sevilla*, he takes pride in the fact that he can seduce so many women. He kills the commander of Uloa after seducing his daughter, but then is lured into the Franciscan Monastery and is killed by the monks. *A symbol of libertinism.
**DON QUIXOTE:** Don Quixote is the hero of Cervantes’s novel, *The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha*. As an old man, Don Quixote sets out in search of adventure to prove his courage to fulfill the ideals of knight-errantry. Accompanied by Sancho Panza, his pragmatic squire, and a suit of armor, he encounters comic and tragic adventures showing his idealism. *Don Quixote signifies an impractical idealist and a visionary.*

**EL DORADO:** Legendary king of Manoa, a city of immense wealth though to be in the Amazon and frequently sought by explorers. Name also refers to the city itself. *El Dorado signifies a paradiasiacal land of wealth, peace, and happiness.*

**FALSTAFF:** Sir John Falstaff is a comic character in three of Shakespeare’s plays: *Henry IV*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Henry V*. He is characterized as a fat, lying, and deceitful knight. He has a lust for life and is unabashedly self-indulgent; seeks to turn everything to his advantage. *a combination of vice and intelligence; one who lives life to the fullest.*

**FAUST:** Legendary figure, protagonist of Goethe’s *Faust*. Faust makes a deal with the Devil to obtain all knowledge in exchange for his soul. *Origin of the term to sell one’s soul to the devil. To strike a Faustian bargain is to be willing to sacrifice anything for what one desires without regard for consequences.*

**FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS:** Nero, emperor of Rome, was known for his tyranny and cruelty. He allegedly started the fire that burnt down Rom and while the devastation escalated, he sat back and played his fiddle. *To fiddle while Rome burns is to remain idle in the midst of disaster.*

**FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS:** A phrase in John Donne’s *Devotions* : “Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.” *The phrase signifies that individuals are connected by shared experiences and eventual fate.*

**FRIDAY:** Man Friday is a character in Daniel Defoe’s novel *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. Robinson Crusoe is marooned on an island. A native rescues him from cannibals, and he names the man Friday. Friday becomes a servant and companion for Crusoe. *A man (or woman) Friday is an indispensable helper.*

**GOLEM:** Golem are robot-like servants from Jewish folklore. They resemble man and were created to help protect the oppressed Jews in Europe. The Golem followed their masters’ orders literally which sometimes led to destruction. *Unthinking obedience.*

**HORATIO ALGER:** Nineteenth century American novelist who wrote popular novels about young men achieving wealth and success thanks to hard work. *Associated with a rags to riches story.*

**JEKYLL AND HYDE:** In Robert Louis Stevenson’s novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* the esteemed Dr. Jekyll drinks a potion that turns him into the violent criminal Mr. Hyde at night. *Represents the two sides of human nature.*

**LILLIPUT:** The first land that Gulliver visits in Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver's Travels*; the inhabitants are 6 inches tall, battle over insignificant differences, and have an overblown sense of importance.* To be small or miniature; to be small-minded.*

**LOLITA:** The twelve-year old girl who is the object of affection and sexual attraction for her middle-aged teacher Humbert Humbert in Vladimir Nabokov’s novel *Lolita.* *A seductive young girl; nymphet*

**LOTHARIO:** Character in Nicholas Rowe’s play *The Fair Penitent* who is a ruthless, insensitive womanizer. *A selfish and insensitive seducer of women.*
**MACHIAVELLI:** Italian political theorist, author of *The Prince*, a handbook of how to attain and retain political power. He said a ruler should rule with deception, be feared, and act as if the ends justify the means. *to be Machiavellian is to be manipulative and deceitful.*

**MILQUETOAST:** H. T. Webster published a cartoon, *The Timid Soul,* and Caspar Milquetoast was the timid and meek character *To be unassertive or timid in nature*

**MOTHER TERESA:** Nun who dedicated her life to helping the poor in Calcutta. * A person with a strong charitable nature, a saintly figure.*

**MRS. MALAPROP/MALAPROPISM:** In Richard Brinsley Sheridan’s play *The Rivals,* Mrs. Malaprop misused words that sounded similar, but meant completely different things. *a malapropism is the comical word substitution (ex: “he is the very pineapple of politeness.”)*

**NUREMBERG TRIALS:** A series of trials held in Nuremberg, Germany from 1945 to 1946. During these trials, former Nazi leaders were tried as war criminals by the International Military Tribunal. Their defense was that they were following orders. *The Nuremberg Trials are culturally significant because they mark the first time that war crimes were brought to international attention. Set the precedent that one must take personal responsibility for his actions.*

**PANGLOSS:** Dr. Pangloss is the tutor to the hero in Voltaire’s *Candide, Ou L’Optimisme.* Even though he endures many misfortunes, he stays optimistic, telling Candide that “All is for the best in this best of all possible worlds.” *associated with unwarranted optimism*

**PETER PAN:** The main character of J.M. Barrie’s novel *Peter Pan, or the Boy Who Wouldn’t Grow Up.* He lives in Never-Never-Land as the leader of the lost boys, a group of young boys who were lost in Kensington Gardens when they were babies. Peter has chosen to stay a boy forever and never grows up. *Refers to men who are immature and do not want to act like adults. To be in neverland is to ignore reality.*

**PLATO:** Greek philosopher, student of Socrates. Most of his writing is in the dialogue form and focuses on the doctrine of ideas. *The word Plato has become a byword for idealized perfection.*

**POLYANNA:** *Polyanna* is a novel by Eleanor H. Porter. The heroine is an expert at “the Glad Game” and is always optimistic. *Polyanna has become a synonym for irrepressible optimism.*

**PYRRHIC VICTORY:** Also known as Neoptolemus, Pyrrhus was a general who won two decisive victories over the Romans but lost many men. *A pyrrhic victory is a victory gained at too great a cost.*

**SADÉ (Marquis de):** French novelist, his military career was ended by his scandalous sexual behavior and he was imprisoned for blasphemy in 1768. Wrote novels, notably *Justine,* that detailed perverse sexual behavior. *Sadism is the act of getting pleasure from another’s pain.*

**SCOPES:** 1925 trial in Tennessee. John Scopes was a high school biology teacher who was accused of violating a state law that forbade teaching evolution. Clarence Darrow was Scopes’ defense attorney and William Jennings Bryan was the lead prosecutor. Popularly called the monkey trial. *This is culturally significant because it is seen as the beginning of the struggle to teach evolution in schools.*

**SCROOGE:** Ebenezer Scrooge is the main character in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol.* He is a “greedy old sinner” who is very mean to others. He despises Christmas (his phrase is “Bah humbug”), but through his journey
with the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future, he becomes a generous man. *synonymous with greed and mean-spiritedness.

**SIMON LEGREE:** Overseer on a plantation in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* (1852). Legree is extremely cruel, and beats Uncle Tom, a slave, to death during the novel. The character was used to represent the brutality that slaves faced in the antebellum South, and had a profound effect in gathering support for the abolition of slavery. *Describes a cruel, unjust supervisor or employer.

**SVENGALI:** Unattractive, brusque, Austrian musician in the novel *Trilby* (1894) by George du Maurier. The novel’s main character, Trilby, meets him and is repulsed, he hypnotizes her and makes her a famous singer. Once he dies, she loses her ability to sing. *Svengali represents someone who has great, almost hypnotizing, influence over another.

**TRISTAN/ISOLDE:** Tristan and Isolde were doomed Celtic lovers. In the legend, Tristan was sent to bring Isolde as a wife for his uncle, but the two fall in love. Tristan flees when his uncle discovers them, and marries another Isolde: Isolde of the White Hands. Tristan falls ill and sends for Isolde, but Isolde of the White Hands lies about her arrival. Tristan dies, and Isolde kills herself. *The story of Tristan and Isolde is an archetype for star-crossed lovers whose passion proves to be their own undoing.

**UNCLE TOM:** Main character in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) by Harriet Beecher Stowe. Uncle Tom is the “noble slave,” bearing the brutality of his plantations’ overseers with steadfast honor. *The term is used pejoratively to describe a black person overeager to win the approval of white people and characterized by obsequious behavior; can describe anyone regarded as betraying his cultural or social allegiance.

**URIAH HEEP:** Sly, deceptive clerk in *David Copperfield* (1850) by Charles Dickens, Uriah Heep pretends to be humble in order to steal from his employer. *signifies false humility and obsequiousness.

**UTOPIA:** A word derived from the Greek meaning “no place”. The term was made famous by Sir Thomas More’s *Utopia* (1516), which depicts a paradise free from the poverty, crime, and injustice that More and many others believed pervaded society at the time. *The term “utopia” is used to describe any perfect world.

**WALTER MITTY:** Meek, ineffective husband in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (1939) by James Thurber. Mitty escapes the monotony of his life through fantastic daydreams in which he is the hero. *refers to someone out of touch with reality.

**WATERLOO:** A small town in Belgium Wellington defeated Napoleon in 1815. The battle resulted in Napoleon’s abdication and exile and ended the Napoleonic Empire which controlled nearly all of Europe. *symbolizes a complete and irrevocable loss or defeat; a staggering setback.

**YAHOO:** A race of creatures found in Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726). Gulliver comes to a land where the Houynhnhnms (noble horses) rule over the Yahoos -- brute servants who look like men. *a yahoo is a coarse, brutish, loutish, rowdy person.

**ARTHURIAN MYTHOLOGY**

**ARTHUR:** He pulled a sword from a stone and became the king of Britain. He is associated with the quest for the Holy Grail. Wounded in a battle, he is taken to Avalon from whence legend says he will return in Britain’s hour of need – thus, he is known as the Once and Future King. *Arthur’s adherence to honor makes him a pillar of justice and nobility.
CAMELOT: Site of Arthur’s court and departure point of the Grail Quest. Home of the Round Table. *Evokes the romance of chivalry; refers to an idealized place.

EXCALIBUR: Arthur’s second sword, though sometimes equated with the sword in the stone. Given to Arthur by the Lady of the Lake, the sword was extremely powerful and its scabbard protected the bearer from injury. *Symbol of leadership and power, but also of divine protection and authority.

FISHER KING: Guardian of the Holy Grail, the Fisher King is a descendent of Joseph of Arimathea and resides at Corbenic. Sick and can only be healed by the asking of the proper question. The land around his castle is known as the wasteland and it will not be restored until the Fisher King is. *associated with resurrection; also associated with wounded masculinity.

GALAHAD: Son of Lancelot and Elaine of Corbenic (and thus a descendent of the Fisher King). Only knight able to sit in the Siege Perilous. In later versions of the tales, Galahad is the Grail Knight who heals the Fisher King. *To be gallant is to be brave and courageous. Galahad is associated with chivalry and purity. He is an analog of Christ.

GRAIL: Cup or chalice used by Christ at the Last Supper, the Grail has miraculous healing powers *Can refer to any object of a quest; a goal.

GUINEVERE: The wife of King Arthur and Queen of the kingdom of Camelot. She has an affair with the knight Lancelot, setting off a chain of events that ultimately leads to the division and downfall of King Arthur’s kingdom. After her husband is mortally wounded at the hands of Mordred, Guinevere leads a life of grief and repentance. *Guinevere’s affair closely associates her with infidelity and adultery.

LANCELOT: One of the most famous and noble knights of the Round Table. Deeply in love with Guinevere, Lancelot rescues her from execution after she is sentenced to death upon the exposure of their affair. Lancelot’s affair also places an impurity upon his soul that prevents him from completing his quest of procuring the Holy Grail. Conceives Galahad with Elaine, who disguises herself as Guinevere. Ultimately, the discovery of Lancelot’s affair and his killing of Gaiwan’s brother during his rescue of Guinevere undermines the goodwill and cohesiveness of the Round Table. *Lancelot’s bravery as a knight and his unwavering affection of and loyalty to Guinevere makes him a model of courage, nobility and passion. Out of sin can come good.

MERLIN: Merlin is endowed with magical powers that he uses for the good of society, crafting objects of power such as the Round Table that are critical to the ruling of King Arthur’s kingdom. His wisdom and insight is invaluable to the rule of Camelot. *archetype of a wise counselor; sometimes depicted as a sinister force.

MORDRED: A knight of the round table, and both the son and nephew of Arthur, the result of accidental incest between Arthur and his half-sister Morgan le Fay. Mordred solidifies the downfall of Arthur’s Camelot. Seeking to create instability and division among King Arthur’s court, Mordred helps reveal the affair between Lancelot and Guinevere. In a final battle, Arthur and Mordred duel, resulting in Arthur being severely wounded and taken to Avalon, and Mordred being killed. *a model of violence, cruelty and betrayal.

MORGAN LE FAY: Morgan le Fay is Arthur’s half-sister and the mother of Mordred. Taught the dark arts by Merlin, Morgan le Fay is an enchantress who antagonizes King Arthur and Queen Guinevere. She is often known for her overt sexuality, seducing the knights of Camelot. Ultimately, Morgan le Fay is shown to possess a sensitive and loving aspect, assisting in the transport of Arthur to his place of healing in Avalon. *Morgan le Fay is most commonly symbolic of witchcraft, malevolence, and female sexuality.

PERCIVAL: Percival is one of the three knights of the Round Table to gain sight of the Holy Grail. While the guest of the Fisher King, Percival sees the Grail procession. Unfortunately, because he had been warned as a young
man to not ask questions, Percival fails to ask the meaning of this procession, the one question which would have resulted in the healing of the Fisher King. Initially a bumpkin who is ignorant of knighthood, Percival’s natural chivalry makes him a model knight. Throughout his journeys, Percival shows himself to be a man of courage and strong moral grounding. *Associated with naivete but also with chivalry and nobility.