**Expectations and Directions for Bibilical and Mythological Review**

**20 + 20 +**...: Choose at least 20 from the list of Biblical allusions (include both Old and New Testament) and at least 20 from the list of mythological and archetypal allusions below. Continue to add to your reference guide as you see fit.

**Format:** Choose what works best for you. Create entries in your Writer’s Notebook (perhaps include in Vocabulary **Acc**section beginning in the back of your notebook, or throughout the notebook and list in the Table of Contents), or create a separate reference sheet.

**What to include:** Anything significant and relevant

* descriptions of the characters and events
* explanations of etymology (vocabulary/expressions derived from related names/events)
* classical and contemporary allusions in texts and popular culture

**Example: Leah and Rachel, the twelve tribes of Israel**

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| **Description: Leah and Rachel** were the oldest daughters of **Laban,** the brother of **Rebekah**. Both married **Jacob**, the “trickster” who won his father’s inheritance through pretending to be his older brother **Esau**. After he spent seven years working for Laban so that he might finally obtain permission to marry Rachel, Jacob was deceived into consummating his marriage with Leah, whom Laban sent to Jacob’s tent after dark. Laban demanded that Jacob work seven more years in order to marry Rachel, which he did. The **twelve tribes of Israel** were born out of his marriages to both Leah and Rachel. |
| **Allusions:**   * In Margaret Atwood’s dystopian novel The Handmaid’s Tale, handmaids are young women whose role in the Republic of Gilead requires them to live in the houses of wealthy Commanders with the specific aim to reproduce and bear children. Handmaids begin their careers through orientation and training at the **Rachel and Leah Centre.** What was Atwood’s purpose choosing this name? Since both Rachel and Leah gave their handmaids to Jacob to be surrogate mothers, this becomes justification for Gilead to institute the laws of their regime. (In Diamant’s novel The Red Tent, Leah chooses to wear the veil so that she cannot be identified, similar to concealment of the handmaids’ faces during intercourse. However, since Diamont’s novel came out long after Atwood’s, this is merely an interesting coincidence.) * The Red Tent by Anita Diamant is a fictional re-imagining of these and subsequent events, told from Dinah’s point of view. Dinah is a character we do not know much about from the Bible. Diamont created Dinah’s voice and story through years of research. In this novel, the women have much more power and agency than they do as depicted in the Bible. For instance, Leah chooses to enter Jacob’s tent unbeknownst to her father. |

1. **Biblical Allusions That Often Appear in Literary Texts**
2. **Genesis Characters and Events:**
3. **Adam, Eve, the Garden of Eden, the Serpent, forbidden fruit**
4. **Cain and Abel**
5. **Noah, the ark, his sons especially Ham**
6. **Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, *akedah*** or “binding of Isaac,” **Hagar, Ishmael**
7. **Lot and Lot’s wife**
8. **Isaac and Rebekkah and sons Esau and Jacob/Israel**
9. **Leah and Rachel, the twelve tribes of Israel**
10. **Joseph**
11. **Potiphar’s wife** and relationship/affect on Joseph
12. **Later Old Testament Characters and Events:**
13. **Moses, Egypt, the Red Sea, 40 days in the desert, Israel**
14. **Aaron**
15. **Deborah**
16. **Sampson and Delilah**
17. **Samuel and Saul**
18. **David and Goliath**
19. **Uriah and Bathsheba and son**
20. **Solomon, son Rehboam, Judah**
21. **Absalom**
22. **Jezebel**
23. **Esther and Haman**
24. **Job**
25. **Elijah** .
26. **Jeremiah**
27. **Nebuchadnezzar**
28. **Jonah**
29. **Daniel**
30. **New Testament Characters and Events:**
31. **Mary, Gabriel, Annunciation**
32. **Joseph**
33. **Jesus Christ**
34. **Mary Magdalene**
35. **John the Baptist**
36. **Herod, King of the Jews** (“out-Herod Herod”)
37. **Magi** or **Wise Men of the East**
38. **Lucifer / Satan**
39. **Peter**
40. **John, the Apostle**
41. **Lazarus**
42. **Judas Iscariot**
43. **Pontius Pilate**
44. **Thomas**
45. **Paul, the road to Damascus**

**Mythological Allusions**

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| 1. **Achilles, Achilles’ Heel** 2. **Adonis** 3. **Aeolian** 4. **Aphrodite** 5. **Apollo** 6. **Argus-eyed** 7. **Athena / Minerva** 8. **Atlas, Atlantean** 9. **Aurora** 10. **Bacchanal, Bacchanalian** 11. **Calliope** 12. **Cassandra** 13. **Centaur** 14. **Chimera** 15. **Demeter** 16. **Eros / Cupid** 17. **Furies** 18. **Golden Fleece** 19. **Gorgon** 20. **Hades** 21. **Halcyon** 22. **Harpy** 23. **Hector** 24. **Helen of Troy** 25. **Hercules** 26. **Hydra-headed** 27. **Iris** (iridescent) 28. **Isis** 29. **Jupiter** 30. **Juno** 31. **Lethe** 32. **Mars** | 1. **Medea** 2. **Mercury/Hermes** 3. **Mnemosyne** 4. **Morpheus** 5. **Muse** 6. **Narcissus** 7. **Nemesis** 8. **Neptune** 9. **Niobe** 10. **Odysseus** 11. **Olympus** 12. **Pandora** 13. **Mt. Parnassus** 14. **Pegasus** 15. **Persephone** 16. **Phoenix** 17. **Prometheus** 18. **Proteus** 19. **Psyche** 20. **Pygmalion** 21. **Pyrrhus** 22. **Saturn** 23. **Sibyl** 24. **Sisyphus** 25. **Stentor** 26. **Styx** 27. **Tantalus** 28. **Terpsichore** 29. **Titans** 30. **Tityus** 31. **Vulcan/Hephaestus** 32. **Zeus** |