

# Allusion

a figurative reference to a previous work or historical event as a comparison, the purpose of which is to provide a parallel that links the concept of the work to the previous work or historical event in order to suggest a complex idea concisely

# from Hamlet's soliloquy

## *Hamlet Act 1, Scene 2*

That it should come to this!

But two months dead: nay, not so much, not two:

So excellent a king; that was, to this,

Hyperion to a satyr; so loving to my mother

That he might not beteem the winds of heaven

Visit her face too roughly. Heaven and earth!

...

O, God! a beast, that wants discourse of reason,

Would have mourn'd longer--married with my uncle,

My father's brother, but no more like my father

Than I to Hercules: within a month:

Ere yet the salt of most unrighteous tears

Had left the flushing in her galled eyes,

She married. O, most wicked speed, to post

With such dexterity to incestuous sheets!

# Allusion:

*complex idea conveyed through comparative reference*

King Hamlet

“so excellent a king”



“Hyperion”

god of light and the sun,  
kingly and radiant

King Claudius

“this”



“a satyr”

half man and half goat,  
drunken and lecherous

to