





Literary Allusion

- **allusion** (a-LOO-zhuhn): a reference in a literary work to a person, place, or thing in history or another work of literature.
- Allusions are often indirect or brief references to well-known characters or events.

Types of Allusion

-  Biblical: referring to the Bible or a religious work
-  Classical: referring to Classical Literature (Greek and Roman mythology)
-  Literary: referring to another literary work
-  Historical: referring to an event in history

Why allusions are important

- Allusions are often used to summarize broad, complex ideas or emotions in one quick, powerful image.

An example:

- For example, to communicate the idea of self-sacrifice one may refer to Jesus, as part of Jesus' story portrays him dying on the cross in order to save mankind (Matthew 27:45-56).

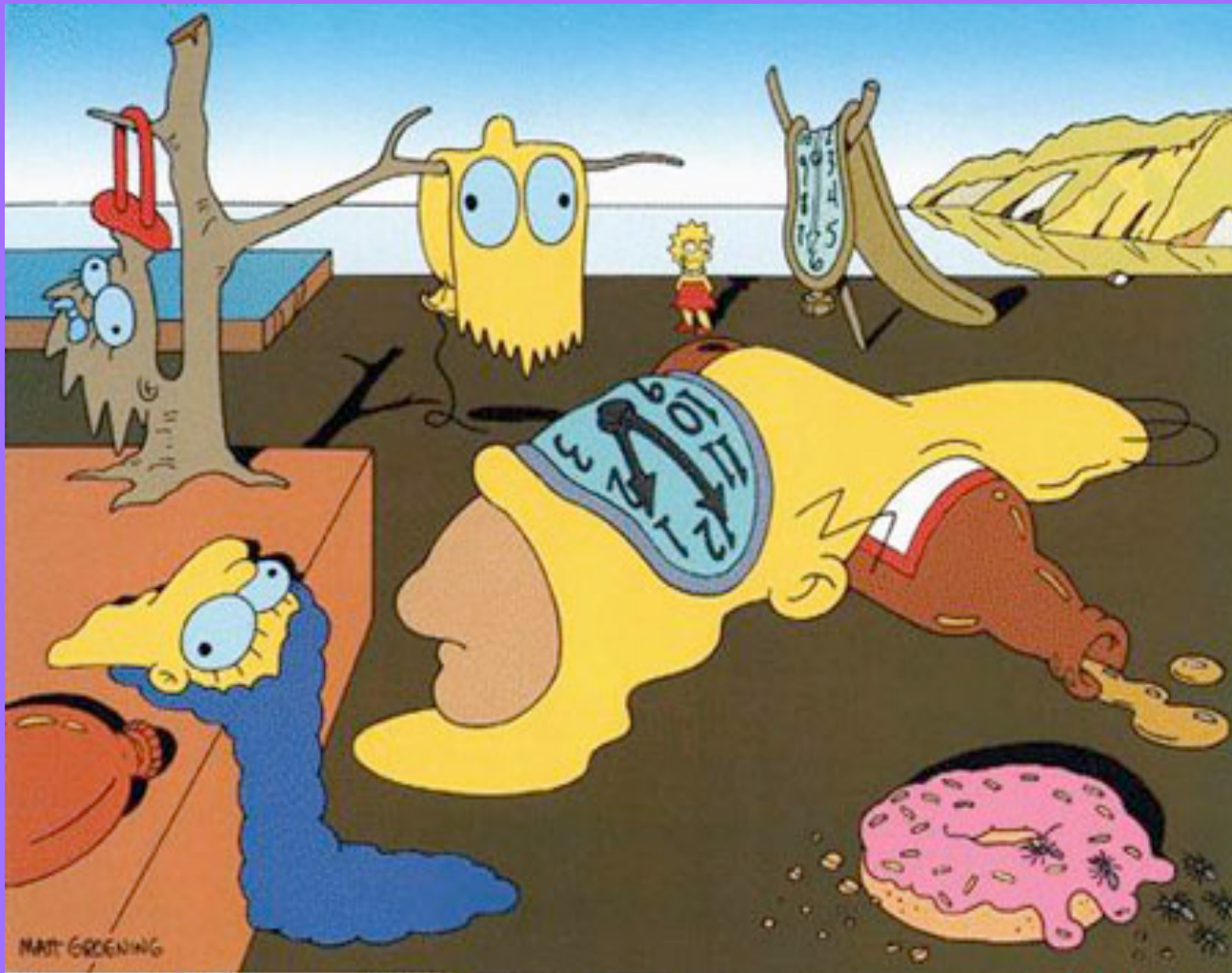


- Allusions serve an important function in writing - they allow the reader to understand a difficult concept by relating to an already familiar story (shorthand).
- In order to understand them, one must know what they are referring to.
- When used well, literary allusions add layers of meaning to a work of literature so that it has more depth as well as more ambiguity.

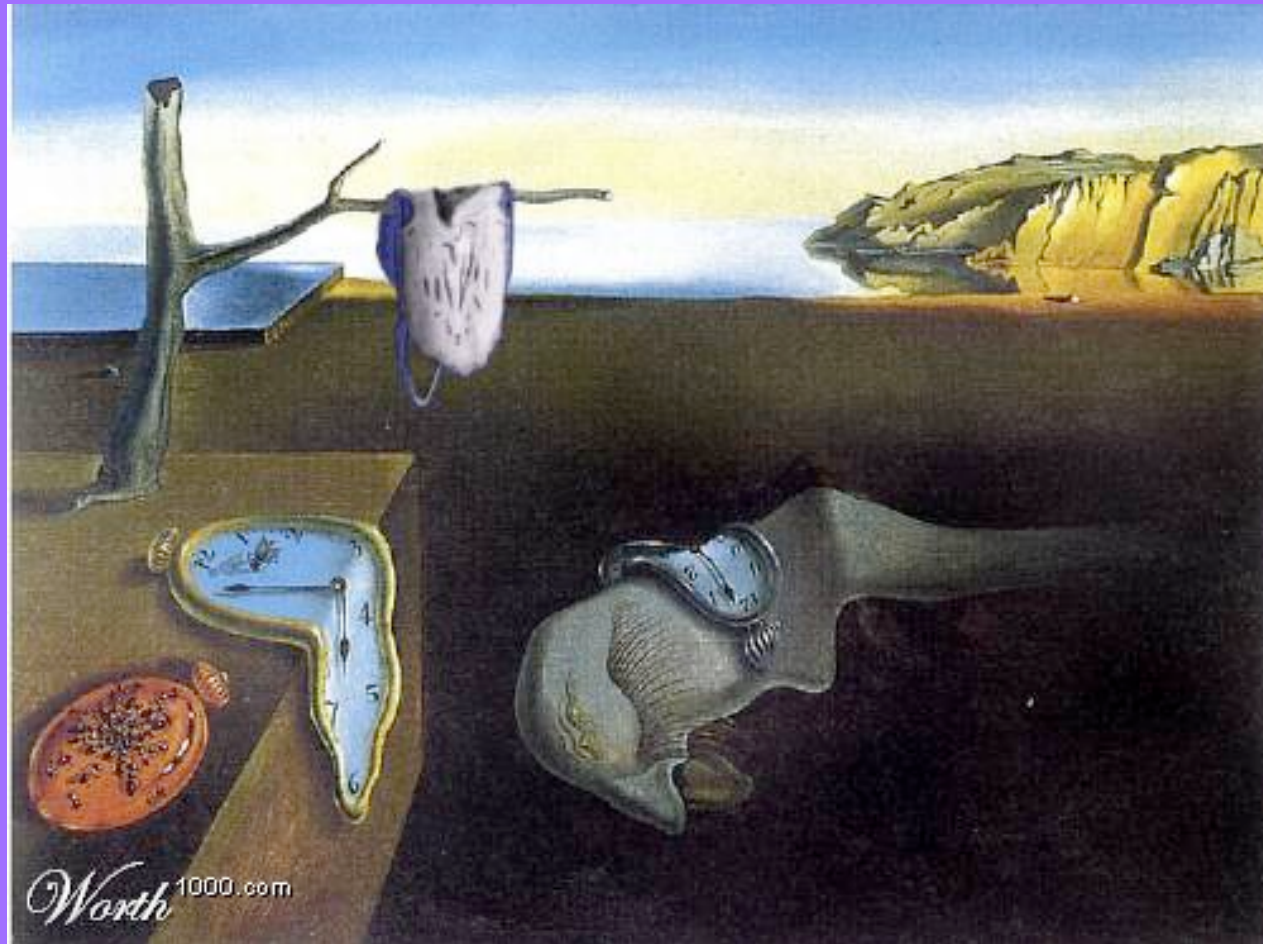
Alpha and Omega

- 1 The term Alpha and Omega comes from the biblical phrase “I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last”
- 1 First and last letters of the Greek alphabet, thus meaning that Jesus is eternal
- 1 In the following quote, Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre*, the character Mr. Rochester confesses his love for Jane
- “The Alpha and Omega of my heart’s wishes broke involuntarily from my lips in the words - ‘Jane! Jane! Jane!’” (Chapter 37)
 - The “first” and “last” thing that he thinks about and wishes for is Jane
 - This allusion effectively emphasizes to the reader Mr. Rochester’s deep love for Jane Eyre
 - Strengthens the overall plot of the story and highlights the intricate relationship between the two characters





This is the original version of the painting by Salvador Dali.



The Simpsons has even alluded to...



Note the broken glasses!!

Tantalize

- The word derives from the plight of Tantalus
- Condemned to eternity of hunger and thirst in after life after offending the gods
- Boughs receded from his grasp every time he tried to pluck fruits off of it
- Poe used the word “tantalize” to add to the gloomy and ominous tone of his writing.



Bernard Picart (1673-1733). Tantalus. Photo © Maicar Förlag - GML