

Allusion

allusion - a reference to a person, place, thing, or event from history, literature, arts, religion, mythology, politics, sports, or science

Someday We'll Know by New Radicals

90 miles outside Chicago

Can't stop driving I don't know why
So many questions I need an answer
Two years later, you're still on my mind
Whatever happened to Amelia Earhart?

Who holds the stars up in the sky?

Is true love just once in a lifetime?

Did the captain of the Titanic cry?

Someday we'll know if love can move a mountain

Someday we'll know why the sky is blue

Someday we'll know why I wasn't meant for you

Does anybody know the way to Atlantis

Or what the wind says when she cries?

I'm speeding by the place that I met you

For the 97th time tonight

Someday we'll know why Samson loved Delilah

One day I'll go dancing on the moon

Someday you'll know that I was the one for you

I bought a ticket to the end of the rainbow

I watched the stars crash in the sea

If I could ask God just one question

Why aren't you here with me tonight?

Instructions:

1. Read the song lyrics and/or listen to the song.
2. Highlight or underline all of the examples of allusion that you can find in the song. There are at least 5!
3. Think about what the writer was trying to say by using each allusion and answer the questions on the following page.

Analyzing Allusion

in Someday We'll Know by New Radicals

Instructions:

1. Use the song lyrics to help you answer the following questions.
2. Cut out and glue into your interactive notebook.

Analyzing Allusion

in Someday We'll Know by New Radicals

1. In line 5, the author makes an allusion to Amelia Earhart. What does she have to do with the meaning of the song?

2. Why do you think the author asks the question "Did the captain of the Titanic cry?"

3. What is Atlantis? Why is it the perfect *place* to allude to in this song?

4. Who were Samson and Delilah? This allusion is quite different from the others in this song. What do you think the author might be implying with this allusion?

Allusion - KEY

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- 1 90 miles outside Chicago
- 2 Can't stop driving I don't know why
- 3 So many questions I need an answer
- 4 Two years later, you're still on my mind
- 5 Whatever happened to Amelia Earhart?
- 6 Who holds the stars up in the sky?
- 7 Is true love just once in a lifetime?
- 8 Did the captain of the Titanic cry?
- 9 Someday we'll know if love can move a mountain
- 10 Someday we'll know why the sky is blue
- 11 Someday we'll know why I wasn't meant for you
- 12 Does anybody know the way to Atlantis
- 13 Or what the wind says when she cries?
- 14 I'm speeding by the place that I met you
- 15 For the 97th time tonight
- 16 Someday we'll know why Samson loved Delilah
- 17 One day I'll go dancing on the moon
- 18 Someday you'll know that I was the one for you
- 19 I bought a ticket to the end of the rainbow
- 20 I watched the stars crash in the sea
- 21 If I could ask God just one question
- 22 Why aren't you here with me tonight?

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1. In line 5, the author makes an allusion to Amelia Earhart. What does she have to do with the meaning of the song?

The author makes an allusion to Amelia Earhart because there is so much speculation about her death. She could be considered a great mystery, just as the author believes it is a mystery why he and his love can't be together.

2. Why do you think the author asks the question "Did the captain of the Titanic cry?"

It is common knowledge that the captain of the Titanic died tragically when he went down with his sinking ship. No one who was with the captain at the time of his death survived, so we will never know if he cried or not.

3. What is Atlantis? Why is it the perfect place to allude to in this song?

Atlantis is a legendary island that supposedly sank into the sea. There is great speculation surrounding Atlantis and whether or not it even existed, so it's the perfect place to fit the allusions of mystery in this song.

4. Who were Samson and Delilah? This allusion is quite different from the others in this song. What do you think the author might be implying with this allusion?

Samson and Delilah were written about in the bible, so this is a biblical allusion. Delilah tricked Samson into falling for her and caused Samson's demise. The author might be comparing his love in the song with Delilah and implying that she has brought him great pain or been the cause of bad things.