



# **The Grammar Dog Guide to Allusions and Symbols in Dickens**

**All quizzes use sentences from six novels.  
Includes 135 multiple choice questions.**

## About Gramwardog

Gramwardog was founded in 2001 by Mary Jane McKinney, a high school English teacher and dedicated grammarian. She and other experienced English teachers in both high school and college regard grammar and style as the key to unlocking the essence of an author.

Their philosophy, that grammar and literature are best understood when learned together, led to the formation of Gramwardog.com, a means of sharing knowledge about the structure and patterns of language unique to specific authors. These patterns are what make a great book *a great book*. The arduous task of analyzing works for grammar and style has yielded a unique product, guaranteed to enlighten the reader of literary classics.

Gramwardog's strategy is to put the author's words under the microscope. The result yields an increased appreciation of the art of writing and awareness of the importance and power of language.



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**SAMPLE EXERCISES - ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS in Charles Dickens**

**A TALE OF TWO CITIES**

**EXERCISE 2          STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

**Identify the type of allusion or symbol in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:**

*a. history      b. mythology      c. religion      d. geography      e. literary*

- \_\_\_\_ 1.          In both countries it was clearer than crystal to the lords of the State preserves of loaves and fishes, that things in general were settled for ever.
- \_\_\_\_ 2.          Mr. Cruncher reposed under a patchwork counterpane, like a Harlequin at home.
- \_\_\_\_ 3.          For, people then paid to see the play at the Old Bailey, just as they paid to see the play in Bedlam . .
- \_\_\_\_ 4.          He added, in a jesting way, that perhaps George Washington might gain almost as great a name in history as George the Third.

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS**

**EXERCISE 4          STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

**Identify the type of allusion or symbol in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:**

*a. history      b. mythology      c. religion      d. literary      e. geography      f. musical*

- \_\_\_\_ 1.          He was a mild, good-natured, sweet-tempered, easy-going, foolish, dear fellow – a sort of Hercules in strength, and also in weakness.
- \_\_\_\_ 2.          It was Christmas Eve, and I had to stir the pudding for next day with a copper-stick, from seven to eight by the Dutch clock.
- \_\_\_\_ 3.          This was so much her normal state that Joe and I would often, for weeks together, be, as to our fingers, like monumental Crusaders as to their legs.
- \_\_\_\_ 4.          Mr. Wopsle said grace with theatrical declamation – as it now appears to me, something like a religious cross of the ghost in Hamlet with Richard the Third – and ended with the proper aspiration that he might be truly grateful.

**OLIVER TWIST**

**EXERCISE 6      STYLE: ALLUSIONS AND SYMBOLS**

Identify the type of allusion or symbol in the following sentences. Label the underlined words:

*a. mythology      b. religion      c. physical abuse      d. folklore/superstition*

- \_\_\_ 1.      It would have been very like a Christian, and a marvelously good Christian, too, if Oliver had prayed for the people who fed and took care of him.
  
- \_\_\_ 2.      . . . he was kicked into the same apartment every evening at prayer-time, and there permitted to listen to, and console his mind with, a general supplication of the boys . . . to be guarded from the sins and vices of Oliver Twist.
  
- \_\_\_ 3.      “Yes, I think it is rather pretty,” said the beadle, glancing proudly downwards at the large brass buttons . . . “The die is the same as the parochial seal – the Good Samaritan healing the sick and bruised man.”
  
- \_\_\_ 4.      Against the wall were ranged, in regular array, a long row of elm boards cut into the same shape; looking in the dim light, like high-shouldered ghosts with their hands in their breeches-pocket.

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