

Achilles' Heel**Origin:** Greek Mythology**Definition of Term:**

The term Achilles' heel is used to describe a weakness. In the story, Achilles' was strong and invulnerable, yet the one weakness that Achilles had was located on his heel. He was punctured on the heel with an arrow, which led to his defeat. Therefore, the term Achilles' heel could mean 1) a weakness or vulnerable point (especially someone or something that is considered strong or invincible), 2) a fault or weakness that causes or could cause someone or something to fail or 3) a small but fatal weakness.

Many people interpret Achilles' name into two parts; ἄχος (áchos) meaning "distress, pain, sorrow, grief" and λαός (laós) which refers to "people, soldiers, nation". This describes the vulnerability and loss of a well-beloved and heroic soldier during the battle.

"Achilles." Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Achilles' heel.

"Achilles." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 3 Sept. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Achilles.

Literary Example:

The story of Achilles' is that he was dipped into the river Styx as an infant in order to make him immortal. The one part that wasn't dipped in the water was his heel (therefore the most vulnerable part of his body). He was also seen as a great soldier in the Trojan War, who fought valiantly till the end. But in other regards, Achilles' was also overcome by rage. According to Homer in the Iliad, Achilles' refused to fight against the Trojan's until his friend, who was wearing his armor, was killed by Hector. In the Iliad, Achilles' death is not specifically mentioned for the poem focuses on the rage that Achilles' had. His rage drove him to kill Hector and turned many of the Gods against him. For instance, the river god, Scamander, was enraged with the dead bodies that Achilles' killed, while Zeus, on the other hand, noted Achilles' rage and tried to restrain him. Even though the Iliad doesn't cover the entirety of the Trojan War, it focuses on the Achilles' actions in the war. While he was a hero to many, his rage was out of control, while could also be a hidden weakness that led to his demise.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

One example of Achilles' heel in a text is in an essay written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge, titled The Friend; a literary, moral and political weekly paper, 1810. This was one of the first instances that Achilles' was referenced in English Literature. Coleridge exclaims "Ireland, that vulnerable heel of the British Achilles!" In context, Ireland was the weakest country that affects the strong and powerful Britain. To emphasize this point, Coleridge refers to Ireland as Britain's Achilles' heel meaning that it could have been responsible for Britain's downfall.

Martin, Gary. "'Achilles' Heel' - the Meaning and Origin of This Phrase." Phrasefinder, www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/achilles-heel.html.

Albatross**Origin:** Samuel Taylor Coleridge's Poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"**Definition of Term:**

A psychological burden that feels like a curse, or a dead weight someone must carry.

"Albatross (Metaphor)." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 18 July 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albatross_(metaphor).

Literary Example:

In Taylor Coleridge's Poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" the mariner shoots an albatross that was meant as a curse on the ship because albatross' were a sign of good luck. Because the ship became cursed the crew forced the mariner to wear the albatross around his neck as punishment. And every tongue, through utter drought, / Was withered at the root; / We could not speak, no more than if / We had been choked with soot. / Ah! Well-a-day! What evil looks / Had I from old and young! / Instead of the cross, the Albatross / About my neck was hung.

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner (Text of 1834) by Samuel Taylor Coleridge." Poetry Foundation, Poetry Foundation, 2018, www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43997/the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner-text-of-1834.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

The band Bastille has a song called "Weight of Living" that references an albatross around your neck as a burden (things you've done or said) that you should to let go of.

"Weight of Living, Pt. I"

There's an albatross around your neck / All the things you've said / And the things you've done / Can you carry it with no regrets / Can you stand the person you've become / Oh, there's a light / Oh, oh, oh there's a light / Your albatross, let it go, let it go / Your albatross shoot it down, shoot it down / When you just can't shake / The heavy weight of living

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=31CP4R6OPng>

Genius. "Bastille - Weight of Living, Pt. I." Genius, 4 Mar. 2013, genius.com/Bastille-weight-of-living-pt-i-lyrics.

Argus-Eyed

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Argus Panoptes or Argos was a hundred-eyed giant in Greek mythology. He was a giant, the son of Arestor, whose name "Panoptes" meant "the all-seeing one."

"Argus Panoptes." Greek Mythology, GreekMythology.com,www.greekmythology.com/Myths/Creatures/Argus_Panoptes/argus_panoptes.html

Literary Example:

Argus of Argolis in the Peloponnese was told to guard Io. She was a nymph that Zeus took a fancy to, but they were nearly caught by Hera. To hopefully deceive his wife, Zeus turned Io into a cow and presented her to Hera as a gift. As Hera's servant, Argus was told to watch over Io and guard her. Zeus sent Hermes to retrieve his lover as he knew Hera was only guarding her as such because he knew his trick hadn't fooled Hera. Hermes first lulled Argus to sleep with his music before using his sword to strike him down. Peacocks were then given one hundred eyes on the end of their tails to honor Argus.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

"The Argos Data Collection and location System (DCS) is a data collection and relay program that provides global coverage and platform location... Flying the Argos system aboard polar-orbiting satellites provides worldwide coverage. "

"NOAA Satellite Information System (NOAASIS)." NOAA Satellite Information System Home Page - Office of Satellite and Product Operations, Satellite Products and Services Division, 1 Dec. 2011, www.noaasis.noaa.gov/ARGOS/.

Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

According to Genesis in The Bible, Adam was made from dust and Eve from his rib of dust. So, man was created using dust. When Adam died, he was buried and therefore returned to dust. We come from dust and we return to dust.

Literary Example:

In the 1662 version of the Book of Common Prayer a priest during a burial service is supposed to recite "n the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."

<https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/ashes-to-ashes.htm>

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In Marvel's Infinity War over half of the population on a Earth becomes dust. By doing this they are showing a mass loss in population and referencing The Bible.

<https://youtu.be/zbcQuzXArUY>

Bacchanalian

Origin: Roman Mythology

Definition of Term:

“Characterised by or involving drunken revelry, of or relating to the orgiastic rites associated with Bacchus.” Bacchus is the Roman god of wine and fertility, also known as Dionysus in Greek mythology.

Collins English Dictionary - Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition

Literary Example:

“No vivacious Bacchanalian flame leaped out of the pressed grape of Monsieur Defarge: but, a smouldering fire that burnt in the dark lay hidden in the dregs of it.”

In *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, Bacchanalian is being used to describe the effect of Monsieur Defarge’s wine. By alluding that there is no vivacious Bacchanalian flame, but rather a smouldering fire, it is describing that the wine does not give the effect of being drunk, but rather of being warm, relaxed and comfortable.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Originally, Bacchanalia was a Roman festival of sex and wine. It was popular on Italy’s southern peninsula. It is no longer celebrated due to morals in contemporary society. However, there is a contemporary version of Bacchanalia.

“Everyone loves a good party and Bacchanalia never disappoints. With live entertainment and plenty of food and wine to go around, it’s hard to improve on perfection, but the Boca Raton Historical Society & Museum has done it! This year Bacchanalia will be held at the Mizner Park Amphitheater and will go later than ever – until 11pm. In addition, the Hope family winery will be bringing a half of yacht to showcase at Bacchanalia. Other unique selfie spots will be available throughout the event, including a selfie spot by founding sponsor Boca Magazine, as well as unique car displays and a fun BikeCruz experience at Bacchanalia!”

Boca Raton Museum, Boca Bacchanalia 2017. Raton, Boca

Brobdingnagian

Origin: Gulliver’s Travels (Jonathan Swift)

Definition of Term:

Brobdingnagian is an adjective used to describe something as large or gigantic. In Jonathan Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, he calls the giants Brobdingnagians. The word Brobdingnagian was created by Swifts from the usage in *Gulliver’s Travels* in 1726.

Literary Example:

In *Gulliver’s Travels*, the giants view Gulliver as a doll. Brobdingnagian is used to describe the giants in a literal size difference to Gulliver. However, Brobdingnagian is also used to convey the fragility of Gulliver and the rest of English society and mock English society. The Brobdingnagians have an educated and peaceful society and they look down upon war and English life. The giants are described as gigantic in a literal sense as well as the underlying meaning of being the better, more educated beings.

“Use Your Allusion: Brobdingnagians.” Use Your Allusion: Scheherazade, marksadams.blogspot.com/2007/10/use-your-allusion-brobdingnagians.html.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

The word Brobdingnagian is now a versatile word which can be used to describe anything as gigantic, large, etc. For example, you can find headlines such as “At I.B.M., Lilliputian Work for Brobdingnagian Minds” can be found. Examples of its use in a sentence are, the Brobdingnagian building, the Brobdingnagian amount of money spent on the war, etc.

Kriss, Gary. “At I.B.M., Lilliputian Work for Brobdingnagian Minds.” *The New York Times*, *The New York Times*, 18 Nov. 1979, www.nytimes.com/1979/11/18/archives/westchester-weekly-at-ibm-lilliputian-work-for-brobdingnagian-minds.html.

Cupidity

Origin: Middle English

Definition of Term:

Greed for money or possessions.

Literary Example:

In the story *The Black Tulip* it is mentioned in chapter 8 of *The Invasion*

“Now in that night Boxtel would climb over the wall and, as he knew the position of the bulb which was to produce the grand black tulip, he would filch it; and instead of flowering for Cornelius, it would flower for him, Isaac; he also, instead of Van Baerle, would have the prize of a hundred thousand guilders, not to speak of the sublime honour of calling the new flower *Tulipa nigra Boxtellensis*, -- a result which would satisfy not only his vengeance, but also his cupidity and his ambition.”

The Free library copyright 2018 “The Black Tulip”

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Lord of the Rings: Return of the King

Sméagol and Déagol finds the ring for the first time and once Déagol finds it and once Sméagol sees what he found becomes overwhelmed with greed and possessiveness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxN2Mewamj0>

Don Juan

Origin: Spanish Folk Legend

Definition of Term:

A “Don Juan” is a man who is characterized as a great lover and seducer of women. He usually takes pride in his ability to seduce women and more often than not he is very egotistical.

“Don Juan.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 Sept. 2018

Literary Example:

The term comes from a Spanish play “*El burlador de Sevilla*” written by Tirso de Molina, which translates to “The trickster of Seville”. In the tragic drama Don Juan is portrayed as a wealthy libertine who devotes his life to seducing women and takes pride in his ability to do so. His life is also punctuated with violence, in most interpretations of the drama Don Juan kills Don Gonzalo, the father of a girl he has seduced. In most of the versions of the drama the ending results in death of Don Juan after he is denied the salvation of God.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In this episode of “*Friends*”, Rachel and Joey are discussing how to ask someone out, he begins to tell her his strategy. When Joey tells Rachel that all he does is say “How you doin?” she of course does not believe him so he tries it out Phoebe and to her surprise it works. Joey is seen as the charming womanizer of the group.

<https://youtu.be/YiQ1xD6UL-4>

“Friends - How You Doin' [1080p].” YouTube, 22 July 2013

Eye for an Eye, Tooth for a Tooth

Origin: New Testament from the Bible.

Definition of Term:

Also known as the “law of retaliation,” this phrase signifies that a person who has inflicted pain on another person is to be punished in a similar way and the person inflicting the punishment should be the one who was initially hurt. The punishment should be almost identical to the similar pain that the first person experienced.

Wikipedia. "Eye for an Eye." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, 29 Aug. 2018. Web. 25 Sept. 2018.

Literary Example:

(Matthew 5:38-42): “Ye have heard it hath been said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you that ye resist not evil: But whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

“Justice Is Blind: Why 'An Eye for an Eye' Never Dies In Iran”.

This article is about a woman who threw acid onto the face of another woman, and for punishment she will be receiving a blinding in one eye. “Iran’s supreme court ruled last week that a woman who blinded another in an acid attack would receive a literal eye-for-an-eye punishment for the crime. The sentence to blindness in one eye, payment of blood money (compensation), and seven years imprisonment have been confirmed by the highest court.”

Moss, Candida. "Justice Is Blind: Why 'An Eye for an Eye' Never Dies In Iran." The Daily Beast. The Daily Beast Company, 12 Feb. 2017. Web. 27 Sept. 2018

Eye of the Needle

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

The eye of a sewing needle is the opening of the needle where you loop the thread. Typically the term “Eye of the Needle” is used as a metaphor for a very small or narrow opening or to describe the impossible, derived from a saying of Jesus.

“Eye of a Needle.” Dictionary.com, Dictionary.com, www.dictionary.com/browse/eye-of-a-needle.

Literary Example:

In the bible, in Matthew 19:24, Jesus says, ““It is easier for a camel to go through a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” In Israel, the largest animal was a camel, which is why Jesus chose that animal in his comparison. Jesus was explaining how it is impossible for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle, just as it is impossible for a rich man to enter Heaven.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the article, “Expediency and betrayal: Iran’s relationship with al-Qaeda,” Barbara Slavin discusses how the Sunni Jihad group of al-Qaeda has a hostile relationship with Iran, which is primarily Shiite. Slavin incorporates quotes from Osama Bin Laden, someone who distrusted Iran, and in one of the quotes, he told his wife after she was freed from an Iranian detention to “leave behind everything... brought with her from Iran, including books and clothes and to replace everything the size of which could fit in the eye of a needle...” Essentially, Bin Laden made that allusion to exaggerate that his wife should not bring anything back from Iran, out of fear for tracking devices.

Slavin, Barbara. “Expediency and Betrayal: Iran's Relationship with Al-Qaeda.” Al-Monitor, 7 Sept. 2018, www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/09/iran-relationship-al-qaeda-trump.html.

Falstaffian

Origin: Shakespeare

Definition of Term:

Relating to or having the qualities of John Falstaff such as his bawdy humor good natured rascality being fat jolly and robust.

Literary Example:

He is one of the main characters in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by Shakespeare. He tries to court two married women (Mistress Page and Mistress Ford) with identical love letters initially when he tries to send them his servants refuse so he fires them and they Falstaff fires them so they tell their mistresses husbands Ford is very jealous but Page doesn't really care. Eventually the women get the identical letters which they then share with each other but neither are interested in cheating on their husbands especially with Falstaff but they decide to mess with him. They send back letters pretending to return his advances and arranging to meet. Ford goes to meet with Falstaff under the name "Mr Brook" and makes up a story about how he's in love with Mistress Ford but he's too scared to go after her cause she's married and maybe if Falstaff can get her to cheat first he can too. So Falstaff tells him that Mistress Ford already agreed to meet him and "Mr. Brooks" (Ford) leaves lamenting about how Page never should have trusted his wife. However, before their "Meeting" Mistress Ford tells Falstaff to hide in a dirty laundry basket which he does and she has the laundry dumped in the river to be washed with Falstaff in it. But he just thinks she's playing "hard to get". She then convinces him to dress up as her maid's obese aunt known as "The fat Woman from Brentford" who Ford hates, and so Ford beats him up and kicks him out of the house when he sees him. He takes this as simple bad luck and they wives tell their husbands what they've been doing and they arrange one last prank on Falstaff. They ask him to dress like a hunter and arrange for local children to dress as fairies and "punish him" by pinching and burning him. He accepts the "fairies" punishments and sees it as what he deserves.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

There's something Shakespearean about the new movie *Blindspotting*, and it's more than just the rhyme and meter used to construct some of the dialogue. You also see it in the movie's central friendship between Collin (*Hamilton* Tony winner Daveed Diggs), an out-on-parole Oakland man, and a Falstaffian figure named Miles (Rafael Casal) — a chimes-at-midnight kind of guy, which is a problem for Collin, who needs to be in bed at the halfway house by 9. The friendly friction between cautious Collin and mischievous Miles gives the movie its initial buddy-movie framework and comic chemistry — one scene has Miles admiring an Uber driver's handgun, carelessly forgetting that just being near a weapon puts Collin in serious legal jeopardy.

<http://www2.philly.com/philly/entertainment/movies/blindspotting-review-movie-daveed-diggs-20180725.html>

Friday

Origin: *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe (1719).

Definition of Term:

An assistant, servant, helper, or follower who is extremely loyal and competent. Can also be referred to as "Girl Friday".

Cambridge, Dictionary. "Man Friday Definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary." Google Search. Google, 6 Aug. 2014. Web. 27 Sept. 2018.

Literary Example:

From the novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, Crusoe meets a man whom he cannot communicate with and decides to name him Friday, since they met on that day. He saved Friday from a pack of cannibals and Friday is described as submissive to Crusoe, calling him "master" after he had taught him how to speak English. Friday is loyal and sees Crusoe as superior to himself.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

"I need a Man in my life, and also a Man Friday!" by Raksha Bharadia.

Bharadia speaks about how it would be nice to have a Man Friday so that he could do the things that she finds herself doing constantly. "How nice it would be if I had a man who could book movie tickets for a change, fix my light-bulb, drive me out of town etc etc... These women did not have to deal with half the stresses we did, because their 'husbands/boyfriends did it for them'".

Bharadia, Raksha. "I Need a Man in My Life, and Also a Man Friday!" LinkedIn. N.p., 21 July 2016. Web. 25 Sept. 2018.

Galahad

Origin: Bullfinches Mythology

Definition of Term:

Galahad is a character in stories about the knights of the round table. He often represents someone with Christian faith, someone who is also beautiful, brave, strong, and pure in the mind, heart, and body (virgin).

Literary Example:

To prove his worth to find the grail, he pulls the sword from the stone and defeats the other knights in a tournament. After Galahad joined the knights of the round table, he was given a vision of where to find the Holy Grail. Along the way, they find and repair the Sword of David, find Sir Percival's sister, bury her, and reach the location of the Holy Grail. While Sir Percival and Sir Bors accompany Sir Galahad, it is Galahad who finds and recovers the Holy Grail. (During this, the three knights split off at certain parts of the journey before reconnecting.). "Then looked they and saw a man come out of the Holy Vessel, that had all the signs of the passion of Jesu Christ, bleeding all openly, and said: My knights, and my servants, and my true children, which be come out of deadly life into spiritual life, I will now no longer hide me from you, but ye shall see now a part of my secrets and of my hidden things: now hold and receive the high meat which ye have so much desired. Then took he himself the Holy Vessel and came to Galahad; and he kneeled down, and there he received his Saviour, and after him so received all his fellows; and they thought it so sweet that it was marvellous to tell. Then said he to Galahad: Son, wottest thou what I hold betwixt my hands? Nay, said he, but if ye will tell me. This is, said he, the holy dish wherein I ate the lamb on Sheer-Thursday. And now hast thou seen that thou most desired to see, but yet hast thou not seen it so openly as thou shalt see it in the city of Sarras in the spiritual place." In this passage from Sir Thomas Mallory's *Le Morte d'Arthur*, it says Jesus came out of the Holy Grail and told them that the grail is where he ate lamb on Easter Day with his disciples, and it must not be taken to Camelot, but instead to Sarras.

Malory, Thomas. *Le Morte D'Arthur*

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

There is a boat brand called Galahad Marine. This implies their boats are superior to other brands, and their logo is a knight with a lance on top of what appears to be a speedboat.

Another example would be the Disney movie *The Sword in the Stone*, which is a play-off of the knights of the round table myths and stories. A young boy named Arthur is able to pull the sword from the stone, making only him worthy to be king of England. Although Galahad is the one who pulls the sword from the stone in the original story, this movie has Arthur pull the sword out to show he is pure and worthy of the crown.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ca6BNtdT_-Y

"New and Used Boat Sales, Full-Service Marinas." *Galahad Marine*, www.galahadmarine.com/

Goliath

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

The term "Goliath" acts as a highly flexible literary term/device, being employed as an adjective, a character archetype, or as narrative symbolism. Put simply, a Goliath or something that is Goliath is comparatively massive or more powerful in proportion to surrounding people/objects. A Goliath person is someone who is abnormally large or strong, while a building of "Goliath proportions" may refer to a towering skyscraper. Something that is Goliath usually has negative connotations as being overwhelmingly and oppressively huge.

"Goliath | Goliath in English by Oxford Dictionaries." *Oxford Dictionaries | English*, Oxford Dictionaries, en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/goliath.

Literary Example:

In the Old Testament of the Bible, the Philistines (present-day Palestinians) were at war with the Israelites. The Philistines possessed one major advantage over the Israelites; their champion warrior, a giant, unbreakable man called Goliath. The Israelites feared Goliath and were unable to defeat the Philistines because of his legendary strength. David, a young shepherd boy at the time, had been chosen by God to one day take the throne as the King of Israel. David was wise, pure, and faithful, and was outraged that Goliath and the Philistines would continue to harass God's chosen people. He challenged Goliath on behalf of the Israelites, bringing no weapons but a bag of stones and his shepherd's crook. Victory for David seemed impossible; after all, he was a young boy facing down a man more than five times his size. But as he approached Goliath, the righteousness of God came to rest with him, and he struck down the giant with a stone to the head. Taking Goliath's sword, David decapitated Goliath, causing the Philistines to flee in terror. The Israelites rushed the Philistine camps and killed/captured nearly all of them, securing their victory. In addition, David had proven his worth as the next Israeli King.

Fairchild, Mary. "What the Story of David and Goliath Teaches Us About Facing Giants." *ThoughtCo*, ThoughtCo, www.thoughtco.com/david-and-goliath-700211.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

"Survivor" is a popular TV show in which contestants find themselves voluntarily stranded on an island away from civilization. Contestants are tasked with finding food, water, and shelter and often must compete with each other to survive and succeed. The next season (Season 37) of the mainstream program will feature less-experienced underdogs in competition with older, stronger participants and is fittingly called "Survivor: David vs. Goliath". The twenty survivors will be divided among "tribes" named for their respective qualities; "David", whose members lack prior experience and therefore will face a constant disadvantage, and "Goliath", whose members are far stronger and possess veteran qualities.

Wigler, Josh. "'Survivor: David vs. Goliath': Jeff Probst Reveals Everything to Know About Season 37." *The Hollywood Reporter*, The Hollywood Reporter, 21 Sept. 2018, www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/survivor-david-goliath-jeff-probst-season-37-1139268.

Good Samaritan

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

A "Good Samaritan" is someone who is willing to help someone else when it doesn't benefit them.

Smekens Education Solutions. Smekens Education Solutions. Smekens Education Solutions, Smekens Education Solutions Inc., 2014.

Literary Example:

Luke 10:25-37 "And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou has answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto hi, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee."

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

A 6-year-old, who was left alone by her father, who went to a pub, in the passenger seat of a car before seat belts existed almost died when the car started rolling down the steep hill that it was parked on. A stranger managed to jump in the car and stop it at the base of the hill right before it hit a wall. The stranger then took the child to her house, and made sure she was safe till her father returned.

"Your Good Samaritan Stories." BBC, BBC, 7 Jan. 2011, www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-12122809.

Halcyon

Origin: Classical/Mythological Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Halcyon comes from the Greek daughter (Alcyone) "kingfisher." Alcyone was turned into a bird, and had to lay eggs. Her father, Aeolus, Greek god of the wind, stopped the winds and storm before winter when Alcyone needed to lay eggs, ultimately creating a time of peace and calm. Halcyon generally means a time that is happy and peaceful, and in some cases, just calm and peaceful, sometimes with a nostalgic context.

Literary Example:

In Catalogue of Women, a fragmentary Greek epic poem attributed to Hesiod, Alcyone and Ceyx were a happily married couple who called each other Zeus and Hera. This angered Zeus, leading Zeus to strike Ceyx's ship with thunder. Morpheus, god of dreams, came to Alcyone in the guise of Ceyx to tell Alcyone that Ceyx was doomed by Zeus. In response, Alcyone threw herself into the ocean out of grief. After both dying, the gods turned both of them into kingfishers, or halcyon birds named after Alcyone. As Alcyone is now a bird and must lay eggs, her father, Aeolus, God of the Winds, stops the winds and storms in Winter to let Alcyone lay eggs, creating a period of prosperity and calm, known as the halcyon days.

"Alcyone." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Aug. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alcyone.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

The lure of time to use the telescope has already drawn several highly regarded astronomers to the state. But it goes beyond just access to the giant telescope. These are the halcyon days of astronomy. During the last quarter century, astronomers have made a host of breathtaking discoveries about the age of the universe, planets beyond our solar system, and much more. And yet the findings have only raised deeper questions about the cosmos.

Astronomers have, for example, pinned down the precise age of the universe to 13.8 billion years. But at the dawn of the universe 13 billion years ago, what did the first stars and galaxies look like? This is one question the Giant Magellan Telescope could answer.

Berger, Eric. "Texas Astronomy Sees Halcyon Days." Houston Chronicle, Houston Chronicle, 28 Sept. 2015.

Harpy

Origin: Greco-Roman Classical Mythology

Definition of Term:

A “Harpy” is a mythological creature bearing the body of a bird and the head of a woman. Its name means “snatcher” as they look take the food of people they hope to punish, and they were originally thought to be wind spirits (personified from destruction of wind during storms). When someone mysteriously disappeared they were thought to be taken by the harpies, as they take bad people (usually ones who have killed family members) to the Erinyes (which is basically the “purgatory” of Greek mythology). Harpies were also thought to contain the unpleasant aspects of female personality.

“Harpy.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Sept. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harpy.

Literary Example:

In the story of Jason and the Argonauts, the harpies, three female divinities, were sent upon King Phineus by Zeus because Phineus gave away Zeus’s secret plans. He was blinded and sent to an island where the harpies stole every piece of food Zeus gave Phineus. Jason and the Argonauts arrived and prompted the Boreads to drive off the harpies. It isn’t clear if they were successful, but thankful for helping, Phineus gave the Argonauts tips on how to pass the symplegades.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

“Terry Terrific, as she was known among friends, was much maligned in the film industry as a harpy who exploited Ms. Shields [Brooke Shields] and turned her into an unprotesting meal ticket.” From Nothing Comes Between Brooke Shields and Her New Line for QVC.

Harpies often exploited through the taking of things, mostly food, and this Terry Terrific took much from Brooke Shields. With the addition of “unprotesting meal ticket” the author adds that aspect of food that Harpies are best known for taking—a great allusion to the true meaning of a harpy.

Ferla, Ruth La. “Nothing Comes Between Brooke Shields and Her New Line for QVC.” The New York Times, The New York Times, 14 Mar. 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/03/14/fashion/brooke-shields-qvc.html.

Hector

Origin: Greek/Roman Mythology

Definition of Term:

Hector was a Trojan prince during the time of the Trojan war. He became famous for his participation and courage during the war, as well as his noble and courtly personality.

(Illiad, XX, 215 ff) (Hyginus, Fabulae 115)

Literary Example:

According to the Illiad, Hector, though against the Trojan war, commanded the Trojan army. He duelled Ajax, though the fight only ended in a stalemate (with Hector giving Ajax his sword, while Ajax gave Hector his girdle). Later on he fought Achilles, and this time he dies while looking up at Troy. Achilles dragged his dead body around the walls of Troy until the gods intervened. Because of his death, the kingdom was destroyed, but he was able to become one of the Nine Worthies (people who personified the ideas of chivalry).

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

“Strength stoops unto the grave,
Worms feed on Hector brave;
Swords may not fight with fate,
Earth still holds open her gate.
"Come, come!" the bells do cry.
I am sick, I must die.
Lord, have mercy on us!”

(A Litany in Time of Plague, Thomas Nashe)

Jovial

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Jovial comes from the roman god Jupiter, ruler of the gods, who was also known as Jove. Jovial was known as 'under the influence of Jupiter.' It means good humored or merry, as it was believed that the planet Jupiter exerted a happy influence.

Literary Example:

As he sat down quietly under the shade of a drooping willow he heard snatches of a jovial song floating to him from the farther side; then came a sound of two men's voices arguing.

-Robin Hood, chapter VII

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Jovial Culinary Getaway. Whether you're gluten free or passionate about einkorn, join us for the trip of a lifetime in a dream location in Tuscany. You'll take part in hands-on cooking classes with jovial founder, Carla, and a like-minded group of people.
(this company, Jovial Foods, uses the positive connotation of jovial to sell gluten free pasta)

Jovial Foods | Gluten Free Foods, Ancient Einkorn Wheat & More. jovialfoods.com/.

Judas

Origin:

Definition of Term:

Literary Example:

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Lamb to the Slaughter

Origin: Bible (book of Isaiah and book of Jeremiah)

Definition of Term:

“Lamb to the Slaughter” refers to the idea that a lamb is innocent and does not ask questions. It is easy to lead it anywhere because it will always follow, not knowing that it could be potentially walking into a trap. It is usually used for someone who is living life very carefree unaware of the fact that something bad could happen to them. Signifies innocence, meekness, and purity.

<http://lamb2theslaughter.weebly.com/symbolism.html> ; <https://literarydevices.net/lamb-to-the-slaughter/>

Literary Example:

In the short story by Roald Dahl promptly titled “Lamb to the slaughter”, Mary Maloney waits patiently for her husband to come home every day on one particular day he arrives. While she offers to make herself useful and make him dinner, he begins to tell her, though he does not say it directly, that he is leaving her. In shock Mary continues to go about making dinner. She heads down to the basement where the first piece of meat she finds in the freezer is a leg of lamb, she takes it upstairs where she finds her husband facing away from her. Without giving it a thought she clubs him in the back of the head with the lamb leg, killing him instantly. Realizing what she has done she begins to cover up her crime, she puts the lamb in the oven and heads to the store to pick up vegetables to complete the dinner she then return home to “find” her husband dead, she calls the police. Tired and confused from their investigation, Mary begs the detectives to let her finish the dinner she was preparing. Feeling sorry for her they join her, while enjoying the lamb the men begin to discuss the case, they say that they are convinced that the murder weapon is “probably right under (their) noses”. Dahl uses the “lamb to slaughter” in an ironic way in this case. The title leads the reader to think that the story will be about innocence and purity but take the complete opposite turn when we realize that Marry was a cold-blooded killer.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the song “Blood//Water” by Grandson he talks about political corruption and how our leaders lead us blindly down a path that does not have good outcomes for us. Like a lamb we are naïve and allow those in power to take advantage of us.

“We'll never get free / Lamb to the slaughter” / Look me in my eyes / Tell me everything's not fine / Oh the people ain't happy / And the river has run dry / You thought you could go free / But the system is done for / If you listen here closely / There's a knock at your front door”

https://youtu.be/Rc_8tbGhXUc
“Grandson – Blood // Water.” Genius, 27 Oct. 2017

Lethargy

Origin: Classical Greek Literature/Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Lethargy: sluggish’ apathetic and indifferent. Lethargy is derived from the Greek word “lethe,” which means “forgetfulness.” Lethe, also known as the “River of Forgetfulness” and “River of Unmindfulness,” was a river located in the underworld where people could drink its water to forget the memory of one’s passing. Over time, the forgetfulness from the river began to have the connotation of being sluggish, apathetic, and indifferent.

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. “Word of the Day: Lethargic.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day/lethargic-2010-10-26.

Literary Example:

In the Myth of Er, Er was a soldier who died on the battlefield. His soul, along with other souls of soldiers, were taken to a place where four doors resided. Two of the doors led into and out of the sky and likewise with the two doors for Earth. Judges decided where each of the souls went. The good souls were led into the door leading into the sky while the bad souls were led into the Earth ones. The good souls came out of the other sky door and told of a place that made them feel incredible and had a clean appearance. The bad souls, though, told of a place where they faced punishments for their wrongdoings on Earth and had a dirty appearance. Some of the bad souls were trapped in the Earth due to their crimes on Earth being too severe. Er wasn’t judged, as he was selected to tell mankind about this afterlife process.

After seven days had passed, the souls were taken to the Spindle of Necessity. There, they met a primordial goddess named Ananke, who was the personification of fate. Ananke gave the souls lottery tickets which determined the order of who asked what their next life should be. The first soul, one from the sky, asked to be a dictator, unknown to the fact that he was destined to eat his children because of his previous actions. This made Er realize that the souls that weren’t punished for their actions were punished in their next lives. Er also realized that the souls who received punishment didn’t have to face negative consequences in the next life. Thereafter, the souls were taken to Lethe, where each soul, except Er, drank from it to forget their past lives. Shortly after, Er woke up in his old body on a funeral pyre that was started by other soldiers.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

“Warming himself ever so briefly had shaken away the *lethargy* and resignation and restored his will to survive. —Lois Lowry, *The Giver*, 1993” (Merriam-Webster, Incorporated)

Lowry, Lois. author. *The Giver*. Boston, Massachusetts :Houghton Mifflin, 1993. Print.
Merriam-Webster, Incorporated. “Lethargy.” Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/lethargy.

Lilliputian

Origin: *Gulliver's Travels* written by Jonathon Swift

Definition of Term:

Lilliputian refers the people living in the imaginary island of Lilliput in Jonathon Swift's novel *Gulliver's Travels*. One of the people's most notable features were their small size, therefore Lilliputian suggests that someone is small, undersized, trivial, etc.

"Lilliputian." Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Lilliputian.

Literary Example:

A literary example is from *Gulliver's Travels*, in which the first island that Gulliver visits in Lilliput. The people are noted for being small and everything from the trees to the building are proportioned to their size. They see Gulliver as a God for his size, and helps the Lilliputians fight against their enemy briefly before heading back from whence he came. When Gulliver first arrives on the island he states that, "I heard a confused noise about me, but in the posture, I lay, could see nothing except the sky. In a little time, I felt something alive moving on my left leg, which advancing gently forward over my breast, came almost up to my chin; when bending mine eyes downwards as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. In the meantime, I felt at least forty more of the same kind (as I conjectured) following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud, that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterwards told, were hurt with the falls they got from leaping from sides upon the ground." This shows the size difference between Gulliver and the Lilliputians first of all being that they are less than six inches tall, but also that he is so loud that instead of exclaiming in surprise it came out as a frightening roar to the Lilliputians.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Instead of a reference to Lilliputians, there was a reference to the island of Lilliput. The article stated that paleontologists may describe a species that was close to extinction but the surviving organisms appeared smaller than before. The term used to describe this is known as the "Lilliput effect". The Lilliput effect occurs when the smaller species survived due to faster reproduction and the fact that they required less resources (food) to survive, and therefore the smaller traits were passed down. The article states that "the extinct dodo bird of Mauritius was descended from a much smaller member of the pigeon family, while Komodo dragons (which still live on Indonesian islands and can grow to 10 feet) may be descended from a small monitor lizard". These are just a few examples of the Lilliput effect.

"Scientists Ponder 'the Lilliput Effect'." The Christian Science Monitor, The Christian Science Monitor, 16 Nov. 2006, www.csmonitor.com/2006/1116/p13s02-stss.html.

Cartoon URL: <https://scholarblogs.emory.edu/evolutionshorts/files/2015/12/cartoon.png>

Lothario

Origin: (Literature Origin) *The Fair Penitent* by Nicholas Rowe

Definition of Term:

A Lothario is an individual who seduces and manipulates women for sexual pursuits in a relationship; often considered selfish, irresponsible, and closed-minded. Stated off as a character in a play, but now the name alludes to the characteristics that were stated.

Literary Example:

In the play *The Fair Penitent* by Nicholas Rowe, a woman (Calista) is entranced with love for a man named Lothario. Lothario goes to Calista's chambers and spends the night with her, but Lothario laughs and leaves when Calista brings upon the idea of a probable marriage in the future. Calista's father then forces her to marry a young man—who despises Lothario—named Altamont. Lothario then comes back to visit the woman after her marriage but is caught and killed by Altamont. Calista then becomes confused and overwhelmed with emotion, for she was happy to finally be rid of Lothario, but she still loved him, no matter how inconsiderate and negligible he was to her. The following quote is taken from *The Fair Penitent* after Lothario's death:

"(Act V Scene 1) Calista: I have more real anguish in my heart, than all their pedant discipline e'er knew. What charnel has been rifled for these bones? Fie! this is pageantry; —they look uncouthly, but what of that, if he or she that own'd 'em safe from disquiet sit, and smile to see the farce their miserable relicts play? But here's a sight is terrible indeed! Is this that haughty, gallant, gay, Lothario, that dear perfidious—Ah! —how pale he looks! How grim with clotted blood, and those dead eyes! Ascend, ye ghosts, fantastic forms of night, in all your diff'rent dreadful shapes ascend, And match the present horror, if you can."

Rowe Nicholas. "Act V Scene 1." *The Fair Penitent*, 1703, pp. 76-75.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the song "Man in the Looking Glass" by Frank Sinatra, Sinatra sings, "Where's our young Romeo? The lad who used to sigh – Who's the middle age Lothario with the twinkle in his eyes?" The song explains Sinatra's perception of himself and his struggle to outgrow his past. He explains how he has grown in age, but he hasn't aged in terms of his pursuits to find an individual in which he could love as his own. His daughter Tina explained that "[Her] father was a deeply feeling man who could not attain a meaningful intimate relationship." After his divorce with Ava Gardner, he lost all hope in love and never wanted to feel the pain in which he had felt again.

Song: Sinatra Frank. "Man in the Looking Glass," *September of My Years*. Bart Howard, 1965, (1:07-1:24).

Quote: Kaplan James. (2015, December 12th) "Frank Sinatra: Hollywood's Loneliest Lothario" *The Telegraph*. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/music/artists/frank-sinatra-chairman-james-kaplan/>

Malapropism

Origin: French phrase “mal à propos” or literally “poorly placed” in English.

Definition of Term:

A malapropism is the mistaken use of a word in place of a similar sounding one.

Literary Example:

In Richard Sheridan’s 1775 play *The Rivals*, there is a character named Mrs. Malaprop, who, for comedic effect, constantly misspeaks and uses words that sound similar but have very different meanings than what she intends.

(*The Rivals*, Richard Sheridan)

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

[In *It* \(2017\), there is a scene where one of the main characters, Eddie, learns that the medication he’s been taking are placebos. When he confronts his mother about this, he calls them gazebos instead of placebos.](#)

(*It* (2017), dir. Andy Muschietti)

Mercurial

Origin: Roman Mythology

Definition of Term:

Mercurial describes someone whose mood or behavior is changeable and unpredictable; someone who is clever, lively, and quick. Originates from the Roman god mercury, who was known to be very crafty and greedy.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/mercurial>

Literary Example:

In David Lovelace “Scattershot: My Bipolar Family,” he describes the experiences of someone with bipolar disorder, as well as mania and other mental illnesses. The definition of mercurial is used throughout the descriptive passage but the word itself can be found in a sentence, “But the “mixed state,” the mercurial churning of both high and low, is the most dangerous, the most deadly.” This connotation of mercurial is mostly used for mental illnesses as well as evil and flawed characters.

<https://www.wineverygame.com/words/mercurial.html>

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In Nickelodeon’s comedy TV show, *Victorious*, a perfect example of a mercurial character. Cat Valentine is constantly all over the place in her emotions and personality. As the series goes on, this character becomes well known for being such a mercurial character, and is loved despite this character trait.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQpEq_SFw5s

(0:04- 0:23)

Mnemonics

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Mnemonics is the interpretation and usage of auditory, visual, and sensual components that aid in the remembrance of specific qualities in the human mind. Another way of putting it is facilitating a known concept or feeling with another in which one is trying to understand. This allows for better memorization and better interpretation of a concept that needs more consideration. The word is related to the Greek Goddess and Titaness Mnemosyne, goddess of Memory.

Foundation, Wikipedia. "Mnemonic." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 9 Sept. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mnemonic.

Literary Example:

In Greek system mnemonics, visual representations were more prominently presented and adhered to when concerning interpretation. This can be seen through depictions in drawings in house walls and windows, portraying the story of Greek Mythology and its past and present facilitations. When interpreting how time was recorded in Greek Mnemonics, there were 10 imaginary houses each accompanied with 10 rooms, and in these rooms the floors walls and windows were used to facilitate one aspect of time in remembrance to one specific event or memory. It was a memory system used to convey information relevant to the specific memory being organized.

Foundation, Wikipedia. "Mnemonic." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 9 Sept. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mnemonic.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Contemporary examples of Mnemonics could include Phone Ringtones, Brail (for the blind), Planners, Acronyms, Pictures, Flashcards, etc. The overall usage and meaning behind Mnemonics are to reveal a quality that is not well known (or not known at all) by employing a trigger or a concept that discloses information about the unknown... It's a memory system.

Wilbert, Max. Mnemonics for Memorization: Do they Work? <https://www.brainscape.com/blog/2016/01/mnemonics-for-memorization/>

Mnemosyne

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

In Greek Mythology, Mnemonics, meaning remembrance or memory, refers to the goddess of Memory. Mnemosyne. Mnemosyne was one of the five daughters conceived by Gaea (Earth) and Uranus (Heaven), making her a Titaness and a part of the first generation of goddesses (all of which are highly respected and accredited by the Greeks). Mnemosyne could see what has, had, or going to happen in the past, present, and future, retaining all knowledge of time and place and the power in restoration of remembrance.

Atsma, Aaron J. "MNEMOSYNE." IRENE (Eirene) - Greek Goddess Hora of Peace (Roman Pax), 2000, www.theoi.com/Titan/TitanisMnemosyne.html.

Literary Example:

Mnemosyne is known primarily for her conceiving of the nine Muses. Zeus had slept with Mnemosyne for nine consecutive nights, therefore bearing nine children. These children were Calliope (goddess of Epic Poetry), Clio (History), Euterpe (Music), Erato (Lyric Poetry), Melpomene (Tragedy), Polyhymnia (Hymns), Terpsichore (Dance), Thalia (Comedy), and Urania (Astronomy), all of which inspired the motives and inspiration that went behind their specific entity. These goddesses are the inspiration behind all subjects of literature, art, and science even if their names are not explicitly mentioned in the works that were inspired.

Felgueroso, Aida Vega. "Mnemosyne: Mythology, Symbol & Facts." Study.com, Study.com, 2003, study.com/academy/lesson/mnemosyne-mythology-symbol-facts.html.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

When concerning the nine muses, we see their influence on everyday components of life. We see their prominence in music and dance and literature and we live through their inspirations and compassions. Although their names are rarely stated in explicit, contemporary works, the nine muses infiltrate and encourage the practice of their specific field dramatically. Without them we wouldn't have the creativity and the knowledge that we do today. Instead of the muses being seen and mentioned in everyday life, examples include individuals today that we would consider our own muses. Examples could include George Lucas, Steve Jobs, Frank Sinatra, etc. It's whatever is significant and special to the individual seeking the muse.

My Brother's Keeper

Origin: Biblical (Christianity/Judaism)

Definition of Term:

"My Brother's Keeper" is a saying from the biblical story of Cain and Abel. "My Brother's Keeper" has now become a symbol of the fact that people aren't willing to be responsible for the health and overall state of their peers. In Christianity and Judaism, it is believed that people are, in fact, responsible for the welfare of their peers.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. "Brother's Keeper, Am i My." *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, 2005, www.dictionary.com/browse/brother-s-keeper--am-i-my.

Literary Example:

Adam and Eve gave birth to Cain and Abel. When they were older, Cain tended to the crops and Abel worked on the flocks. Abel gave the fat portions of the first born of his flock to God as an offering and God took it with favor. Cain decided to give fruit from the soil he tended to God as an offering, but God didn't take it with favor. This made Cain angry. Afterward, Cain took Abel out to the field and killed him. When God asked Cain where Abel was, Cain replied with "I don't know...Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain was then cursed by God to never be able to produce crops again.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

A contemporary use of this allusion is the Jodi Picoult novel *My Sister's Keeper*. "My Sister's Keeper examines what it means to be a good parent, a good sister, a good person" (Taylor). *My Sister's Keeper* alludes to the Christian and Judaism ideal of people being responsible for the welfare of their peers.

Taylor, James. "My Sister's Keeper Examines What It Means to Be a Good Parent, a Good Sister, and a Good Person. Is It Morally Correct to Do Whatever It Takes to Save a Child's Life?" *Jodi Picoult*, www.jodipicoult.com/my-sisters-keeper.html#more.

Narcissism

Origin: Classical Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

"Narcissism" comes from the tale of Narcissus who was a hunter that fell in love with his own image. He was a son of the river god, Cephissus, and the nymph Liriope. He was from The Spiae in Boeotia.

Literary Example:

The Prince by Machiavelli. This is a good example because Machiavelli explains how a prince must follow the rules he sets down implying that he is better than all else and everyone else's rules. He constantly uses the phrase "mirrors for princes" and says they must look in the "mirror".

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Gaston from Beauty and The Beast is a great example because Gaston is clearly in love with himself. This is displayed through the fact he is constantly looking the mirror and fixing his appearance. He also had all the village girls, except Belle, in love with him. Another example would be Kuzco from The Emperor's New Groove. He is looking at himself in the mirror and saying he is the best.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=ZX-n1VeASW4>

Original Sin/ The Fall

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

The Original Sin is a Christian Doctrine that states that everyone is born sinful with a built in urge to do bad things. Many Christians believe that the Original Sin explains why there is so much evil in the world and why individuals need to have their souls saved by God. The basis of the doctrine is in the Bible, and it descends from the fall of Adam, who disobeyed God in eating the forbidden fruit, thus transmitting his sin and guilt to his descendants.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Original Sin." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 31 Jan. 2008,. "Religions - Christianity: Original Sin." BBC, BBC, 17 Sept. 2009, www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/beliefs/originalsin_1.shtml.

Literary Example:

In the book of Genesis, God said to Adam and Eve, "You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and bad. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it, you are surely doomed to die" (Gn 2:16-17). But then the serpent tempted Adam and Eve by stating, "You certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad" (Gn 3: 4-5). Then Adam and Eve decided to choose their own desires over God's will and plan and as a result Sin entered the world. Then in the book of Genesis, Adam and Eve are driven out of the garden and forced to live by the sweat of their brow. God's plan of beauty and harmony was disrupted and the world around them was shattered due to the Sin. Thus, The Fall is known as the Original Sin.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the article, "Stop Obsessing About Countries' Reliance on Foreign Financing," the Original Sin is referenced and used as an allusion. The article discusses countries that depend of finances that are not the same currency as the currency used in the borrowing country. Then, as the currency is denominated and changed in value, the debts are more difficult to pay, creating financial recklessness and havoc. One excerpt from the article says, "It holds that countries that exhibit high levels of original sin — in other words, are particularly reliant on foreign financing of long term-loans — must have some history of financial recklessness and instability that left them in this unenviable position." The article alludes to the Original Sin because, like Adam and Eve, these countries have created a future of problems just by one mistake that they thought could have helped them, just like how Adam and Eve took the bite out of the forbidden fruit, out of their own desires and because they thought it would have helped them.

Bloomberg.com, Bloomberg, www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-09-10/turkey-s-foreign-financing-is-not-the-main-problem.

Pandora's Box

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Pandora's Box is an artifact (container) from Greek Mythological writing that is said to contain "any source of great and unexpected troubles." It contains things that may seem grand, but in reality are full of curses or fatal. It originates from the story of Pandora in Hesiod's *Works and Days*.

"Pandora's Box." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Sept. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pandora's_box.

"Pandora's Box." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Pandora's_box.

Literary Example:

In Hesiod's *Works and Days*, Pandora was the first woman created by Zeus. She was sent to live among men as companions and leave them when times become tough. Zeus sent Pandora to Prometheus' brother, Epimetheus, which was previously told by Prometheus to never accept anything Zeus sends him. He accepted the woman anyway. Epimetheus also had a jar in his house that was given to him by Zeus as well and Pandora opened the jar, unleashing every ill of human-kind: sickness, strife, toil, etc. The ills that escaped haunted human-kind forever; all except one, hope, in the form of a spirit named Elpis. This myth explains why humans have to work to survive. Pandora was to introduce disobedience and treachery into man. Her task from Zeus was to unleash evils of the world and trap hope, showing Zeus as the superior who shaped the world to what it is today.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

An example of Pandora's Box appears in an episode of the BBC series *Doctor Who*. The episode, called "The Pandorica Opens"—a play on the word Pandora—contains a metal box, known as the Pandorica. This box is said to unleash havoc on the universe, should someone open it before the box is "ready;" that havoc being the doctor.

BBC, director. *The Pandorica Opens. Doctor Who*, Youtube, 16 Feb. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7KbqE_EzJM&t=122s.

Pangloss

Origin: Greek

Definition of Term:

Often an optimistic person, regardless of circumstances.

“From Greek, meaning all languages.”

“Pangloss” Wikipedia. Wikipedia Foundation, web. 14 October 2017.

Literary Example:

In *Candide* by Voltaire, Dr. Pangloss is *Candide*’s mentor as well as a philosopher. He believes that everything that happens is for the best, saying “best of all possible worlds”.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

“He wants to believe that Shakespeare wrote all those books, that Lincoln fought the Civil War to free the slaves and the United States fought World War II to rescue the Jews and keep the world safe for democracy, that Jesus and the double feature are coming back. But I’m no Panglossian American.”

— Paul Beatty, *The Sellout*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2015. Beatty, Paul

Philistine

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

A philistine is a person who is hostile or indifferent to culture and the arts, or who has no understanding of them. It also, can refer to someone who lacks in aesthetic refinement .

Random House. “Philistine.” *Dictionary.com*, Dictionary.com, 2018, www.dictionary.com/browse/philistine.

Literary Example:

Although Philistines were found in the Bible they were known for their conflict with the Israelites. Most well-known is the battle between David and the Philistine giant Goliath. In Samuel 17 lines 3-4, “The Philistines stood on the mountainside on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain in the other side, with a valley between them. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.”

Mathew Arnold popularized the term Philistine as someone who lacks and is ignorant in culture. In *Culture and Anarchy* (1869) he writes “If it were not for this purging effect wrought upon our minds by culture, the whole world, the future, as well as the present, would inevitably belong to the Philistines. The people who believe most that our greatness and welfare are proved by our being very rich, and who most give their lives and thoughts to becoming rich, are just the people whom we call the Philistines. Culture says: “Consider these people, then, their way of life, their habits, their manners, the very tones of their voices; look at them attentively; observe the literature they read, the things which give them pleasure, the words which come forth out of their mouths, the thoughts which make the furniture of their minds; would any amount of wealth be worth having with the condition that one was to become just like these people by having it?”

Arnold, Mathew. “Culture and Anarchy.” *Culture and Anarchy*, 1869, public-library.uk/ebooks/25/79.pdf.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In an article by the Wall Street Journal called “*Depoliticize the Nation’s Highest Honor*” the author F.H. Buckley writes “Every country has a nonmilitary award for its most distinguished citizens. In Britain, it’s the Order of Merit or a peerage. France has the Académie française. In the U.S., it’s the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Traditionally, the winners of the medal are announced on July 4. But last year President Trump didn’t award any, which did nothing to improve his standing with our country’s cultural elite. He also puts ketchup on his steaks. A philistine, in short.” Buckley refers to President Donald Trump as a philistine because of his seeming lack of understanding of American culture as he doesn’t award anyone with the Presidential Medal of freedom and eats steak with ketchup.

Buckley, F.H. “Depoliticize the Nation’s Highest Honor.” *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 20 June 2018, www.wsj.com/articles/depoliticize-the-nations-highest-honor-1529536209.

Pollyanna

Origin: *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Porter

Definition of Term:

“Pollyanna” comes from the title character of the novel *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Porter and refers to a character who is excessively and ignorantly positive. They are able to see the good in nearly every situation to the point of naivety.

“Literary Allusions.” Infoplease, Infoplease, www.infoplease.com/arts-entertainment/allusions/literary-allusions.

Literary Example:

In the novel *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Porter, the title character is an orphan who moves in with her mean Aunt Polly. Throughout the book, Pollyanna plays “The Glad Game,” where the goal is to find something good about every situation. Pollyanna introduces the game to others, bringing happiness into their lives. However, she gets hit by a car, losing the use of her legs and her optimism, although before long she is in good spirits again when she realizes the lives she has touched and how she at least still has her legs. While the usage of the allusion “Pollyanna” has come to imply naivety, the character Pollyanna is still a great representation of the allusion due to how she is always trying to see the good in everything and everyone, no matter how bad things may seem.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the show “The Middle,” the character Sue Heck can be considered a Pollyanna. She is often dealt problems that significantly hinder her ability to have success. However, she always works to overcome these obstacles, regardless of how extreme they seem. For example, in the episode “Average Rules,” Sue seeks recognition, so she decides to try out for the track team. However, she gets hit by a deer, leaving her in crutches, making it nearly impossible for her to run. Still, because of how badly she wants to be on the team, she tries out in crutches, even though it takes much more time and energy than running does. During her tryout, she faces many obstacles involving it raining and her crutches breaking. Despite everything going wrong, she finishes smiling and makes the team. She is a great example of a Pollyanna because she had positivity throughout nearly every obstacle, believing she could still do it even when all odds were stacked against her and it wasn’t realistic to keep trying.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrDNwNyrCNE>

Felipe Alvarado. “The Middle Sue Running with Crutches” Online video clip. YouTube. YouTube, 5 Nov. 2012. Web. 11 Oct. 2018.

Prodigal Son

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

A prodigal son is someone who behaves recklessly but then later repents for their mistakes.

“Prodigal Son.” Dictionary.com, Dictionary.com, www.dictionary.com/browse/prodigal-son

Literary Example:

Luke 15:11-32 “And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he devided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him to his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do ol serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Edmund leaves his family to go to the White Witch to get power, but is instead taken captive and is danger. He is rescued and returns to his family, who forgives him.

SparkNotes, SparkNotes, www.sparknotes.com/lit/lion/summary/.

Promethean

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

Promethean comes from the Prometheus, a rebellious and creative titan. Promethean means having the characteristics of Prometheus- intelligence, inventiveness, creativity, and a disregard for rules or orders. Promethean can also mean suffering on a grand scale.

Cartwright, Mark. *Prometheus*. 12 Sept. 2018, www.ancient.eu/Prometheus/.

Literary Example:

In some myths, Prometheus actually created humans, in others, he simply felt sorry for them. In either case, he decided that they could evolve and become far greater with the use of fire. He told Zeus this, but Zeus was worried about what the humans would do with the power of fire, and forbid Prometheus to give it to them. Prometheus couldn't stop thinking about this, however, and he stole fire from the gods, gave it to the humans, and taught them to use it. Fire became the base of culture, and civilization, and Prometheus also taught them how to use it to work metal with fire, so he also became a symbol of technology. Everything was going pretty well on earth, but then Zeus found out about the fire. He punished Prometheus for disobeying him by chaining him to a rock and having an eagle eat his liver every day. (According to some myths, Hercules eventually shot the eagle)

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Promethean is a company that makes smart boards- using the connotation of promethean to promote that smart boards help learning.

Quixote

Origin:

Definition of Term:

Literary Example:

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Saturnine

Origin: Middle English

Definition of Term:

Gloomy, morose or sluggish literally means “Born under the planet of Saturn” which has the slowest revolution and is farthest from the sun in our solar system.

Literary Example:

The argument could be made that Hamlet is in some cases a saturnine character. He is very depressed and gloomy through most of the play and is very slow to action. Despite knowing about his father’s murder for most of the play he spends most of his time talking about how sad he is and how the world hates him and how he just wants to die.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

It was a saturnine Manafort who appeared in court, but prosecutor Andrew Weissmann says that Manafort is already cooperating with the Mueller investigation, or, to use President Trump’s terminology, flipping. The likelihood is that Trump himself will flip out over this news. After all, he recently observed to Fox News, ‘It’s called flipping and it almost ought to be illegal.’ Now his decision to hire Manafort is becoming a case of the perils of Pauline for Trump. So much for hiring only the ‘best people.’

<https://spectator.us/2018/09/best-people-paul-manafort/>

Sisyphean

Origin: Greek Mythology

Definition of Term:

The act of attempting to complete a job that seems impossible to do. The word comes from the Sisyphus in Greek mythology, who was sentenced for his wrongdoing to push a boulder up a hill and watch it roll back down over and over again, forever.

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/Sisyphean>

Literary Example:

The use of Sisyphean is not always used as a form of punishment but also as an example of a character’s will-power. In Victor Hugo’s “Les Miserables,” the main character Jean Val jean begins his story as a slave prisoner working away a petty crime, but because of his several escape attempts, he is forced to lengthen this sentence. Therefore he is forced to serve 19 years in prison for stealing a loaf of bread, and he is showcased as working away without any show of stopping.

<https://rintala-allusions.weebly.com/sisyphus.html>

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In Disney Channel’s “Another Cinderella Story,” Mary Santiago (this versions Cinderella) is the undeclared maid of her household. And like the common Cinderella trope, she is tasked with a daunting and unpleasant task, and in this movie, the task is to clean out her stepmother’s horrendous room.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-FvWRutl60>

Sodom and Gomorrah

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

“Sodom and Gomorrah” was known in the bible as wicked and worldly cities (I don’t think I’ve ever heard someone mention one without the other), and was destroyed by God after Lot and the rest of his family were directed by God to leave. The cities are used now as a representation of worldly places. (In case you’re wondering, Lot’s wife looked back at the cities, missing what she was leaving behind, and was then turned to a pillar of salt.)

Literary Example:

Genesis 18: 20-21

20 And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;
21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the newest Star Wars movie, “the Last Jedi,” Fin and Rose (you’ll have to watch the movie for context) are on a planet that is filled with casinos and rich jerks and other worldly things, while enslaved children and animals provide for entertainment and do the dirty work. Rose was an escaped slave of this planet, and so Fin and Rose decide that it’s payback time, and the storm the main building of the island with a herd of the captive animals, destroying everything in their path as they head out to freedom. It’s not God sending down fire, but the “punishment of the wicked” is a really strong theme in this scene.

Solomon

Origin: Hebrew

Definition of Term:

Son of David; king of Israel c.970–c.930 BC. In the Bible he is traditionally associated with the Song of Songs, Ecclesiastes, and Proverbs, while his wisdom is illustrated by the Judgment of Solomon.

A very wise person.

Literary Example:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn speaks of Solomon in Chapter 14 where Huck and Jim were debating of how wise Solomon really was.

Shmoop Editorial Team. "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Chapter 14 Summary." Shmoop. Shmoop University, Inc., 11 Nov. 2008. Web. 26 Sep. 201

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

Mr.Miyagi from the Karate Kid is one the best examples of a wise person by always giving the right advice to Daniel.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=QsPoBXemFmg

Svengali

Origin: *Trilby* by George Du Maurier

Definition of Term:

Svengali is generally used as an adjective to describe a person. A Svengali is a person who uses and manipulates others (usually their careers) for their own benefit. This term first appeared in Maurier's novel *Trilby* published in 1894 and is based off the villainous character Svengali.

Literary Example:

In *Trilby*, Svengali is a musician and hypnotist who takes an interest in Trilby's voice, the main character. He uses hypnosis to take control and train her voice to make her into a successful singer. In the novel, *Trilby* becomes a star and Svengali completely exploits her along the way. He gains tight control of her life and completely dominates her.

"Svengali." Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Svengali.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

The Svengali deck has been named after Svengali. These decks are a deck of cards which have been manipulated in some way, so a magician can perform tricks which would not be possible with a normal deck. These decks trick the viewers because although believed to be normal they cheat and take advantage of the viewers unawareness. In *Doctor Who*, the first appearance of the Master, the Doctor's rival, was a direct reference to Svengali. His physical appearance included a beard and mustache and his attire was a black robe like that of Svengali. His character traits also matched Svengali as he is manipulative, charming, and possesses other common traits of a sociopath. Along with the similar appearance and character traits the Master is also a skilled hypnotist.

Ltd, Not Panicking. "h2g2 - Doctor Who Enemies: The Master - Edited Entry." h2g2 - The Shang Dynasty - Edited Entry, h2g2.com/edited_entry/A20361647.

Trials of Job

Origin: The Bible

Definition of Term:

The term "trials of job" is a reference to the Bible story of Job, who went through some pretty huge and devastating trials. I family was killed, his house was destroyed, he contracts a deadly and painful disease, and because of all that, everyone he thought was his friend turned their backs, saying it must have been God's punishment for... something. But despite all that, Job was faithful and didn't do much complaining, and so he was blessed by God with more than he'd had. Unfortunately, we kind of ignore that part of the story. I guess we just prefer feeling sorry for ourselves, because Job's experience is only mirrored today by those with grievous trials.

Literary Example:

Job 1: 11
11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
(Satan thought that if Job lost all he had, he would curse God)

Job 13: 15, 21
15 Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.
(But Job had a lot more faith than Satan thought)
21 Withdraw thine hand far from me: and let not thy dread make me afraid.
(And he tells others to stop accusing him and making him feel fear instead of faith)

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the movie "Doctor Strange," the main character, Steven Strange, gets in a car wreck and loses the ability to use his hands. Although self-induced, Strange sells everything he has and goes out looking for a way to regain the use of his hands. Although he was not as patient and trusting as Job at first, he learns to open his mind and trust those around him and their knowledge of the universe, which is grander than he could have possibly imagined.

Uncle Tom

Origin: American Literature (Uncle Tom's Cabin)

Definition of Term:

Uncle Tom refers to a person that is betraying their "own kind" to please a seemingly superior group. The Uncle Tom is also generally also very submissive and subservient to the group that they are trying to please, to the point that they will stab their "own kind" in the back and drag them down to push themselves forward.

Turner, Patricia. "Uncle Tom - Oxford Reference." Social Class and Sport - Oxford Reference, Oxford University Press, 16 June 2017.

Literary Example:

In Uncle Tom's Cabin, Uncle Tom was largely seen as a positive figure who strongly opposed slavery, sticking with his ideals to the ends. Tom is sold to multiple vicious slave owners including Legree, who savagely beats Tom and causes Tom to question his own views up to Legree ordering Tom's death, where Tom sticks with his ideals to as far as forgiving the two men who had just beat him to death. However, due to copyright law at the time, Beecher had no control over how the book was depicted in theatre. Thus, Uncle Tom was changed from an almost Jesus-like figure into a man who immediately betrayed himself and gave into his slave owners, turning Uncle Tom into a derogatory term.

"Uncle Tom." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 26 Aug. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UncleTom.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

"There are legitimate arguments to be made," Cuomo said about Obama's presidency. "But you called him an Uncle Tom. Now that's a little bit different than making legitimate arguments." But Baraka defended using the slur — a term defined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary as a black person "overeager to win the approval of whites" — by saying he used it while speaking to a "specialized audience who understood the context and reason why I framed it in that way." Cuomo, however, wasn't having that argument.

"Is there any good context?" Cuomo asked Baraka of the term. "What I wanted to do was basically to tell people who had this hope in Barack Obama, that if we were concerned and serious about how we could displace white power, we had to demystify the policies and the positions of this individual," Baraka said. "So that was how it got framed, to shock people into a more critical look at this individual, and that's how I did it, and I stand by that."

Cahn, Emily. "Jill Stein's VP Doubles down on Calling Obama 'Uncle Tom' in Truly Wild Town Hall." Mic, Mic Network Inc., 18 Aug. 2016, mic.com/articles/151914/jill-stein-s-vp-doubles-down-on-calling-obama-uncle-tom-in-truly-wild-town-hall#.2yNs70uGg.

Walter Mitty

Origin: *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*

Definition of Term:

A "Walter Mitty" refers to an individual who by all standards appears perfectly normal and "average" but who actually imagines themselves as a person of superior qualities, character, or achievements. Put simply, a Walter Mitty is a daydreamer; a person who longs to be heroic, successful, or adored by others but is in reality just an ordinary person.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Walter Mitty." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 9 Sept. 2010, www.britannica.com/topic/Walter-Mitty.

Literary Example:

In the original version of *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* by James Thurber (written in 1939), Walter Mitty is a sheepish man who endures routine scolding from his wife due to his constant daydreaming and therefore complete lack of focus on any tasks at hand. While he engages in daydreams of epic proportions, he is perpetually pulled back to reality just before his dream reaches its climax. In one such instance, he imagines himself as a courageous Navy captain directing his crew through an aircraft takeoff, battling the brutal forces of nature in the form of a hurricane. Just as he is about to save his entire crew from the clutches of a watery death, he is yanked back to the reality that he is only driving to the grocery store with his wife, who reminds him to concentrate on the road. Nonetheless, Mitty continues to imagine himself in a variety of thrilling adventures, assuming the roles of characters such as a clever doctor, playboy, or assassin.

Gibson, Owen. "Who Is Walter Mitty?" *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 5 Aug. 2003, www.theguardian.com/media/2003/aug/05/iraqdossier.hutton.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In 2013, *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* was rebooted as a movie of the same name. The movie explores the monotonous life of the titular character, who, in modern times, works as an assets manager for a popular magazine. In a jarring comparison to standard versions of the story, Walter Mitty actually receives the opportunity, under professional pretenses, to live out his wildly fantastical daydreams. Throughout the movie he gradually succeeds in all his greatest imagined triumphs, such as winning the affections of a woman he admires, travelling the world, finding a long-lost friend, and receiving a promotion as well as the acclaim of his family, friends, and coworkers.

Youtube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HddkucqSzSM&frags=pl%2Cwn>

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty (2013 Film)." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 6 Sept. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Secret_Life_of_Walter_Mitty_(2013_film).

Yahoo

Origin: *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift

Definition of Term:

"Yahoo" comes from a race that appears in *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift and refers to people who are unruly and brutish, lacking manners and other acceptable behaviors. They may also be considered unintelligent and insensitive. In addition, these people may be deceitful and aggressive.

"Yahoo - Words That Come from Characters in Books." Merriam-Webster, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/words-from-characters-in-books/yahoo.

Literary Example:

In the novel *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift, Gulliver encounters the Yahoos, who resemble humans. However, due to their primitive behaviors such as their eating habits, viciousness, and uncivilized nature, he thinks of them as animals and doesn't see himself resembling them at all. They are also quite materialistic, appreciating "pretty stones." They are very emotionally-driven and represent humans in their most primitive form, while showing many of the characteristics that modern-day humans have. While humans all want to be held at a higher level, many of the characteristics of the Yahoos are at the origins of humanity. Gulliver's efforts to try to be more like a more intelligent and graceful race are all in vain since at his core, he is more like a Yahoo.

Contemporary Example/Usage and Source:

In the article "Schieffer: Tea Partiers Not Just 'A Bunch of Yahoos'" Daniel Carty discusses the threat imposed by tea party activists on Democrats and Republicans in 2010. He states, "This is not just a bunch of yahoos who make a lot of noise. We're seeing they're actually more educated than Americans in general." Jonathan Swift depicted the Yahoos as being an unruly, uneducated, and uncivilized group. Carty uses these characteristics to contrast the tea partiers with people of the sort and show how they have completely different traits. This emphasizes the threat that the group posed at the time.

Carty, Daniel. "Schieffer: Tea Partiers Not Just 'A Bunch of Yahoos.'" CBS News, CBS Interactive, 15 Apr. 2010, www.cbsnews.com/news/schieffer-tea-partiers-not-just-a-bunch-of-yahoos/.