

The New Colossus

How do allusions help to unlock the meaning of a poem?



Colossus of Rhodes, ~304 B.C.
 Wonder of the Ancient World
 Image Courtesy of iStockPhoto (c) Sasu Adrian



Statue of Liberty, 1886
 Auguste Bartholdi, Sculptor
 Image Courtesy of iStockPhoto © David Pedre

The New Colossus

by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)

- 1 Not like the **brazen** giant of Greek fame,
 with conquering limbs astride from land to land;
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
- 5 Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
 Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
 "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
- 10 With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Think About

How are the two statues
 similar and different?

How does the title
 connect to the poem?

Are there any words you
 don't know?

Name: _____

Period: _____

Allusion: In literature, an allusion is when an author references a renowned or well known person, place, or thing from history.

1. Identify the allusion. Who or what is Lazarus referencing in lines 1-2 below?

“Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
with conquering limbs astride from land to land;

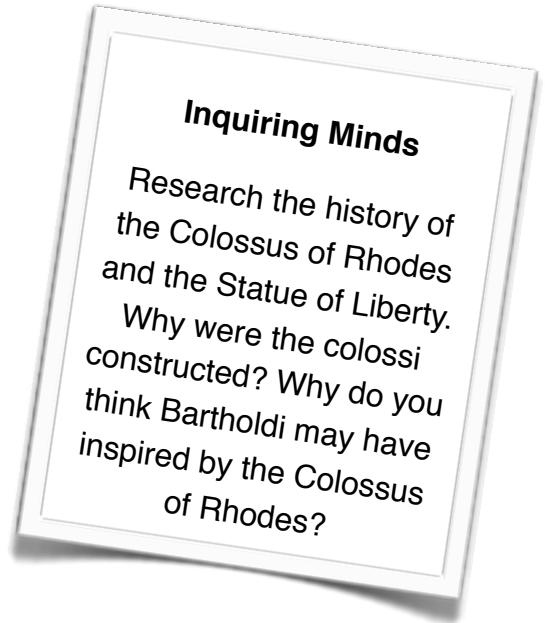
2. Who is the “Mother of Exiles” (line 6)?

3. Read lines 10-13 below.

“Give me your **tired**, your **poor**,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the **homeless**, tempest-tost to me,…”

Who is the speaker in line 10? _____

Who are the “tired,” “poor,” and “homeless”? _____



4. How does the poet’s choice of words suggest that the Statue of Liberty is symbol of **refuge** and **freedom**? Use text details to support your answers.

