

# Allusions

Definition, Explanation, and Examples

# Allusions

- Definition – reference within a work to something famous outside it, such as a well-known person, place, event, story, or work (of art, literature, music, or pop culture)
- Type of metaphor
- Purpose – lets audience understand new information, characters, plot, setting, etc. by connecting it to something already known

# Allusion Problems

- to understand allusions, you must have a good grasp on “well-known” works of literature, art, music, pop culture, etc.
- it can be difficult to fully grasp why an author/writer/director uses an allusion
- NOT references to someone/something only a *small group of people know*
  - “Sally’s smile looked like my mom’s smile.” while a method of comparison, it is not to something well-known (outside of your community).

# Purpose of Allusions

- What does the writer want me to understand about this character, setting, plot, etc. by connecting it to something with which I am already familiar?
- What is the author's purpose in using this allusion?
  - To create the same feeling/mood as the original work?
  - For comedic effect?
  - To show character's motives or traits?
  - Brainstorm with your elbow partner other reasons authors might use an allusion.

# Allusion Example



The makers of the *Scream* movie *ALLUDED TO* Munch's work of art "The Scream" in order to instill fear.

# Allusion Example

- John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* book title alludes to Robert Burns' poem "To a Mouse"
- Burns' poem lines:
  - The best laid schemes of mice and men often go awry
- (Standard English Version)
  - **Reason for allusion:**
    - Steinbeck is trying to send the message, through his title, that things will not go as the characters planned. It foreshadows a not-so-happy ending in which dreams are dashed.

# Spot the Allusion to the Text



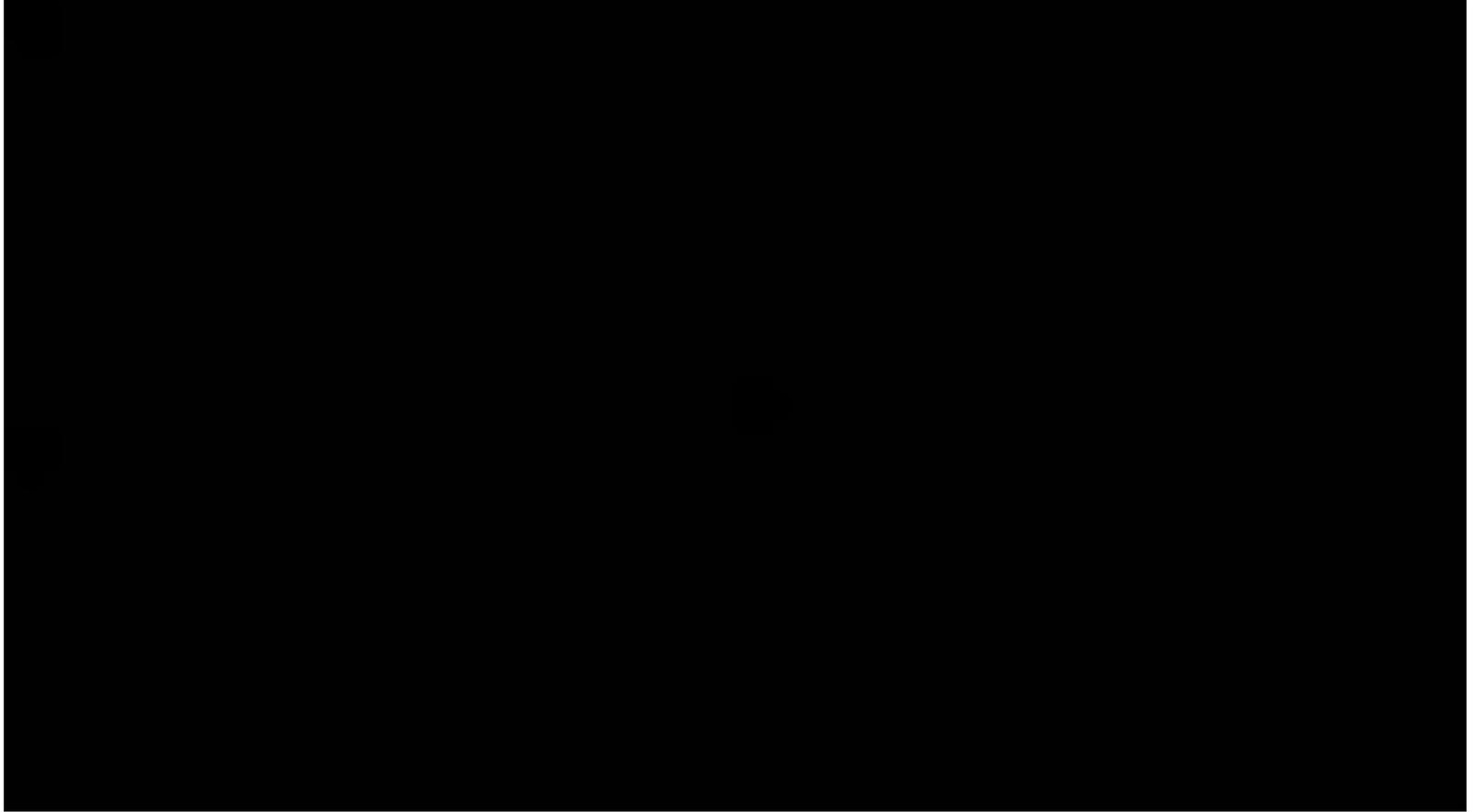
# Allusion to Shakespeare Example

- “Et tu, Brute” Latin for “And you, Brutus”
  - Said by Julius Caesar in Shakespeare’s play when he is about to die and realizes Brutus has betrayed him.
  - Used when people want to get the message across that someone has betrayed them
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- In the scene in *Aladdin* where Genie is trying to make Aladdin a prince, he opens his recipe book. After the crab bites him, a robed hand comes out of the book, to which Genie says, “Et tu, Brute?” indicating that the recipe book has betrayed him, also, along with the crab. The purpose in this case, of course, is for comedic effect.

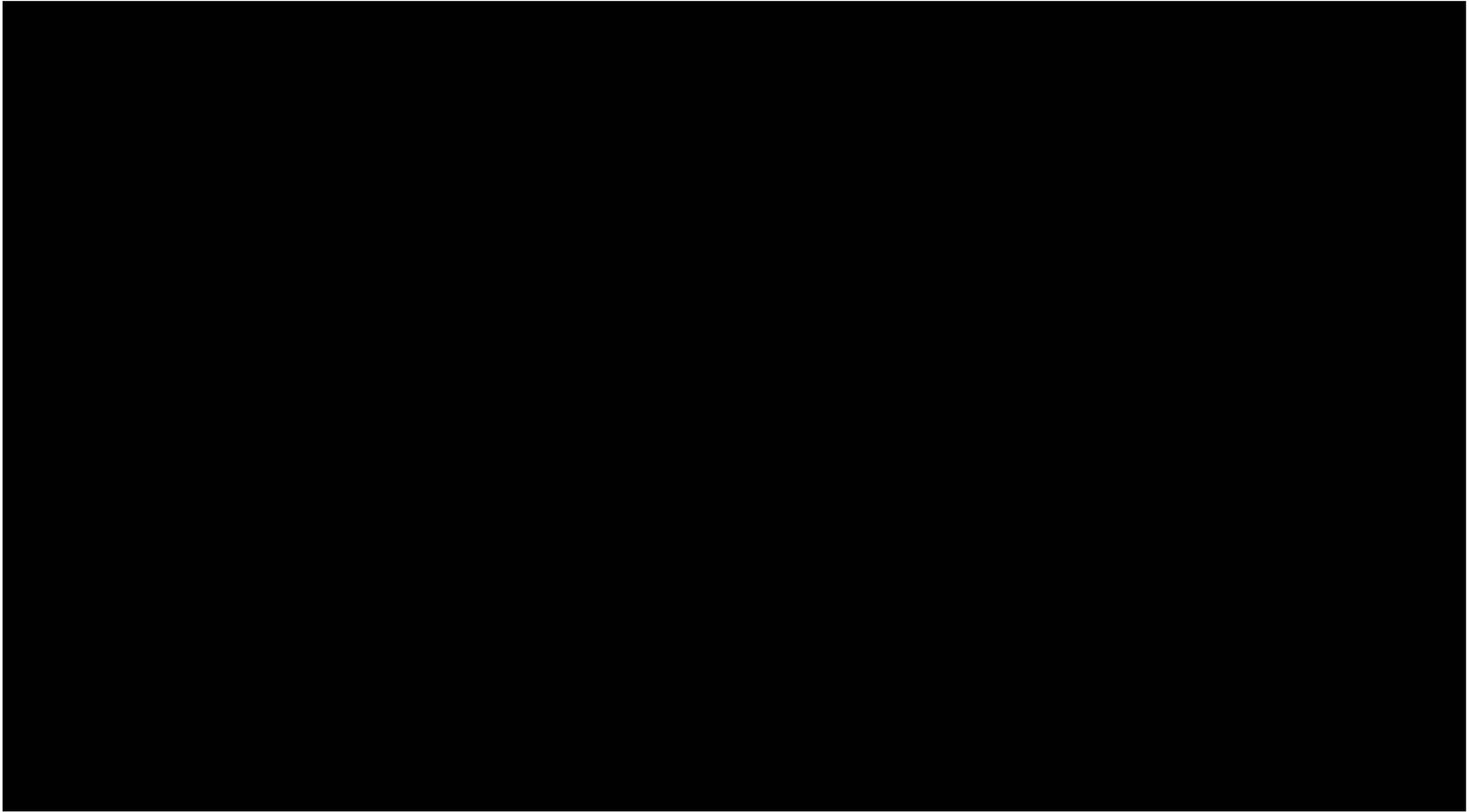
# Spot the Allusion to the Text



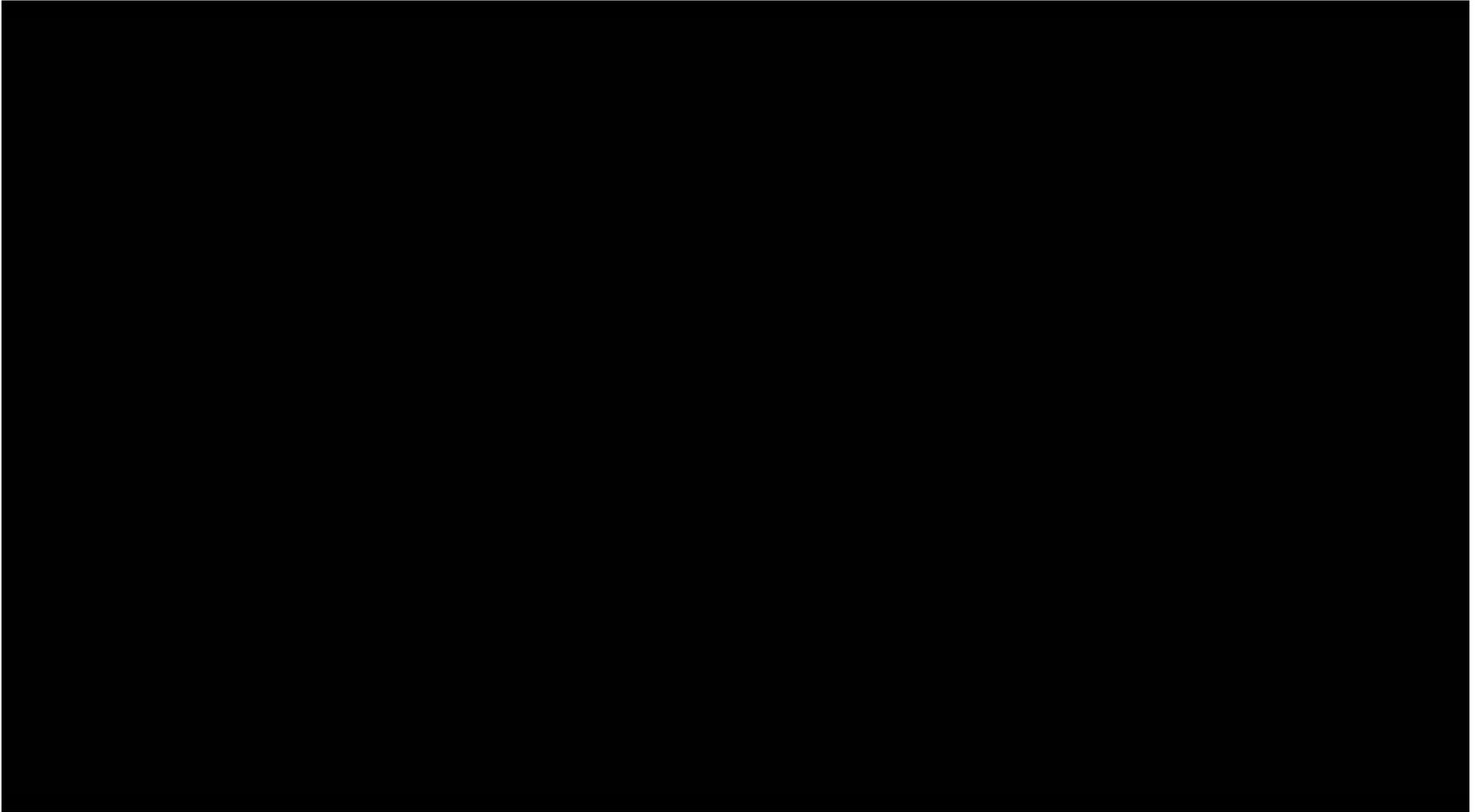
# Spot the Allusion to the Movies



# Spot the Allusion to the Trilogy



# Spot the Allusion to the Story



# Spot the Allusion to a Movie

