

Standards Focus: Allusions and Terminology to Know**Part One: The Hearth and the Salamander**

1. **“It is computed that eleven thousand persons have at several times suffered death, rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end.”**: from *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726) by Jonathan Swift; a satire attacking England’s social and political problems.
2. **“Play the man, Master Ridley; we shall this day light such a candle, by God’s grace, in England, as I trust shall never be put out.”**: a quote attributed to Hugh Latimer (1470-1555) a Protestant reformer who was burned at the stake; Latimer reportedly spoke these words to Bishop Nicolas Ridley immediately before their execution.
3. **451**: refers to 451 degrees Fahrenheit—the temperature at which paper (and books) burn.
4. **Benjamin Franklin**: (1706-1790) an American statesman, printer, inventor, scientist, and writer; Bradbury mentions that Ben Franklin was the first fireman in the newly established Firemen of America; later Beatty points out that the “rule books” have inaccurate information. According to Beatty, the Firemen were not organized until the Civil War, or when “photography came into its own.”
5. **condensations**: “Condensed” or shortened versions of larger texts or full-length literary works.
6. **Dante**: Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), an Italian poet known for his epic poem *The Divine Comedy*, which is an allegory of Dante’s metaphorical trip through Hell; on his journey he sees those who have committed evil receiving justified torture.
7. **digests**: Reader’s Digest, founded in 1922, a family magazine which eventually (1934) focused on condensed versions of full-length novels from the 1930s to today; has been translated into over 20 languages and is distributed to over one million readers.
8. **Faulkner**: William Faulkner (1897-1962) American novelist and poet; won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949; known for his complex use of literary devices and for his discussion of racism in the South; it is also believed that he was an alcoholic.
9. **Hamlet**: a tragedy by William Shakespeare (1564-1616); Hamlet avenges the murder of his father after learning that his uncle murdered his father.
10. **hearth**: a brick- or stone-lined fireplace used for cooking and/or heating.
11. **Little Black Sambo**: a children’s book by Helen Bannerman in 1899; the story of a little boy who has to sacrifice his clothes to tigers, but ends up outwitting them; the story has been considered controversial because of the word “Sambo,” which has been considered a racial slur in America.
12. **Marcus Aurelius**: Marcus Annius Verus (AD 121-180), a Roman Emperor and philosopher, known for his collection of personal writings known as *Meditations*, which focused on the idea of *stoicism*, which is surrounded by the idea that men should be free from passion, pleasure, or pain, and submissive to the natural laws of the universe.
13. **Mechanical Hound**: the Mechanical Hound is a machine that is “alive but not alive”; it is programmed to seek out anyone in the way of the firemen; it kills its prey by injecting the prey with morphine or other lethal substances.
14. **Millay**: Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950) an American poet and playwright; the first woman to receive a Pulitzer Prize for poetry, known for her unconventional lifestyle, feminist views, and political philosophy.
15. **moonstone**: a luminous blue gemstone which is believed to be a holy, magical “dream stone,” thought to bring good dreams and beautiful visions.
16. **phoenix**: from Greek mythology, the phoenix is said to die in its nest, which it then lights on fire; from the ashes, a young new phoenix is reborn.
17. **radio shows (15 minute)**: fifteen minute radio shows are radio programs lasting fifteen minutes long; broadcast during the 1920s to 1950s, popular before the invention of television; shows included stories of adventure, comedy, drama, horror, mystery, musical variety, romance, music concerts, farm reports, news, and weather.
18. **salamander**: the mythological salamander is a reptile resembling a lizard; said to live in the depths of fire; Paracelsus deemed the salamander the elemental creature of fire.
19. **Seashell**: small radio-like devices that people put in their ears to listen to a constant stream of music and talking.
20. **Swift**: Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), an Irish satirist known best for *Gulliver’s Travels*, and *A Modest Proposal*, both of which attack the political and social problems of his time.
21. **tabloids**: newspapers in a small format, giving the news in a condensed, often sensationalized way.
22. **Uncle Tom’s Cabin**- a novel by American author Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1852; one of the best-selling books of all time, the story is believed to have had an extremely profound effect on the view of slavery in the 19th century.
23. **wall television**: wall televisions are walls made up of television panels; these televisions take the place of real family, and in turn, real conversation; the television stations “fill-in-the-blank” with the customer’s name so that they really feel like they are a part of the action around them.
24. **Whitman**: Walt Whitman (1819-1892) an American poet known for his break from traditional poetry of his time to a lack of meter, rhyme, or rhythm; his lack of conventionality and “rude” graphic depictions of human sexuality caused several of his poems to be banned.