



## Allusion: Worksheet

*Direction: Underline the allusions in the work below. Explain what is being alluded to and what point the allusion gets across.*

"I'll be gone for three rotations," The Captain says, unhooking his cruiser from the main spaceship. "I trust you can handle the crew and make sure the ship doesn't explode until I get back?"

"Relax, Captain," the First Mate responds. "You can trust me to keep everything under control while you're enjoying Yogar's climate. This isn't the Planet Express, after all."

The Captain gives his crew and ship another thorough look. "Why does it always feel like I'm making a Faustian bargain with you?"

"Aw, that's a tad harsh, don't you think?" She is met with nothing but his stern gaze. "You can't back out now anyways. Mildrin will hunt us down if you skip, and you definitely need a break from us anyway."

The Captain sighs. He knows she's right. With a voice more befitting the captain of the *Titanic* than their spaceship *Harmony*, he says fiercely, "You all better listen to our First Mate, you understand? I can assure you that they'll be hell to pay if you cause her any trouble. And don't any of you even *think* about peeking at the newest shipment we got - that's one Pandora's box even you idiots don't want to open."

The crew watches their Captain's departure until his ship is but a speck of light indistinguishable from any star. Flashing a Cheshire grin, the First Mate turns to the rest of her cohorts. "Are all of you ready to have some fun around here?"

The Engineer excitedly squeaks, "Do you mean we'll be looking at the shipment after all?"

"No duh, Sherlock. Let's get started."



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Note: The student's explanations for the purposes of the allusions will likely vary. The answers provided are just examples of what a correct answer might look like.

1. This isn't the Planet Express, after all. - an intergalactic shipping company shown in the hit TV series *Futurama*. The notable thing about the crew was how incompetent they often were.
2. Making a Faustian bargain with you? - a reference to the play *Dr. Faustus*. It refers specifically to the deal between the titular character and a demon - a deal that at first seems grand but later turns out to be extremely short-sighted.
3. With a voice more befitting the captain of the Titanic - a famous ship that sunk. The reference helps establish the attitude of the Captain.
4. That's one Pandora's box - reference to the popular myth of Pandora. The gods tricked the mortal Pandora into opening a box that contained great evils.
5. Flashing a Cheshire grin - the Cheshire cat from *Alice in Wonderland* is well-known for his eerie smile. He always seems to know more than the heroine.
6. No duh, Sherlock. - the titular character in the *Sherlock Holmes* book series, known for his sharp wit. It's used here sarcastically.