

# 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)?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

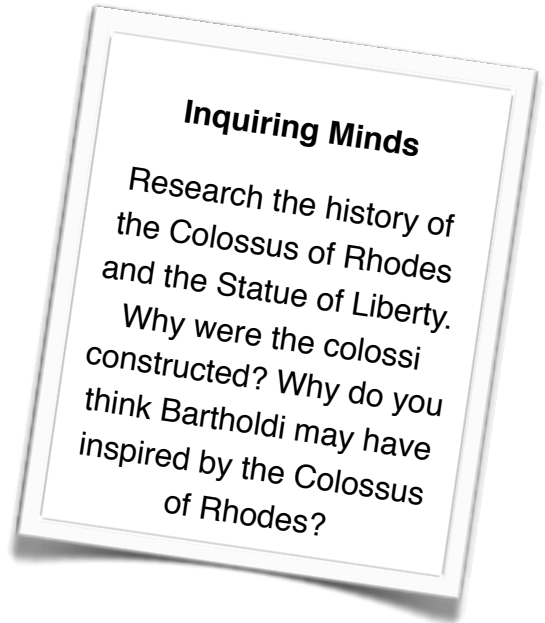
3. Read lines 10-13 below.

“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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_