Hinting at Big Stories

Interpreting allusions and figures of speech in context





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DID YOU KNOW?

A few words can borrow a whole story.

That shortcut hint is called an allusion.

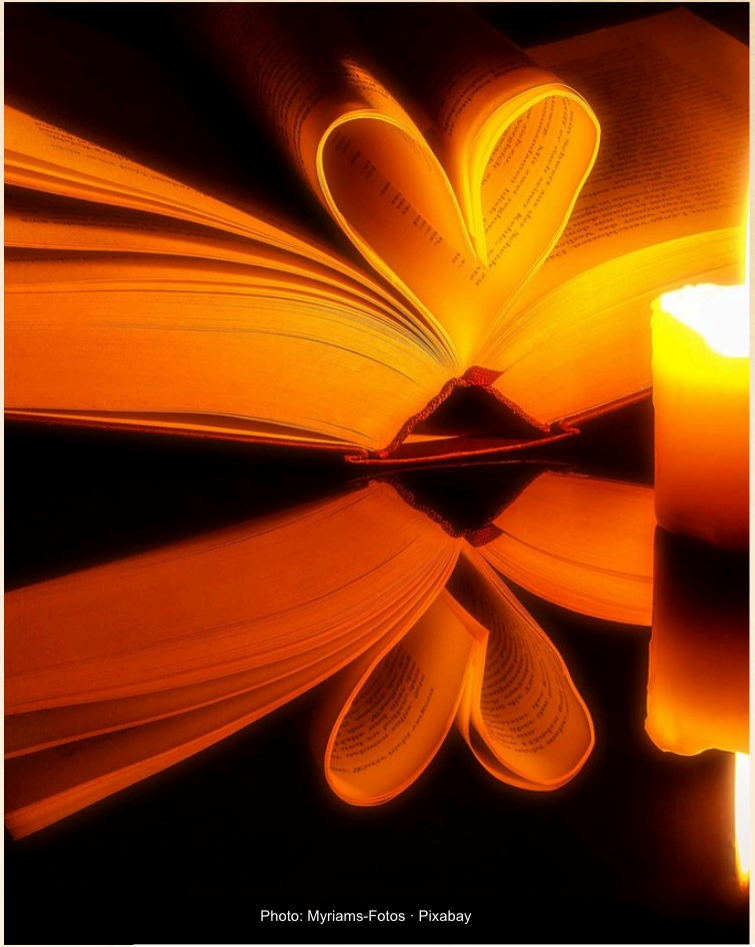


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Key words

allusion

short hint to a well-known story

figure of speech

words that mean more than literal

context

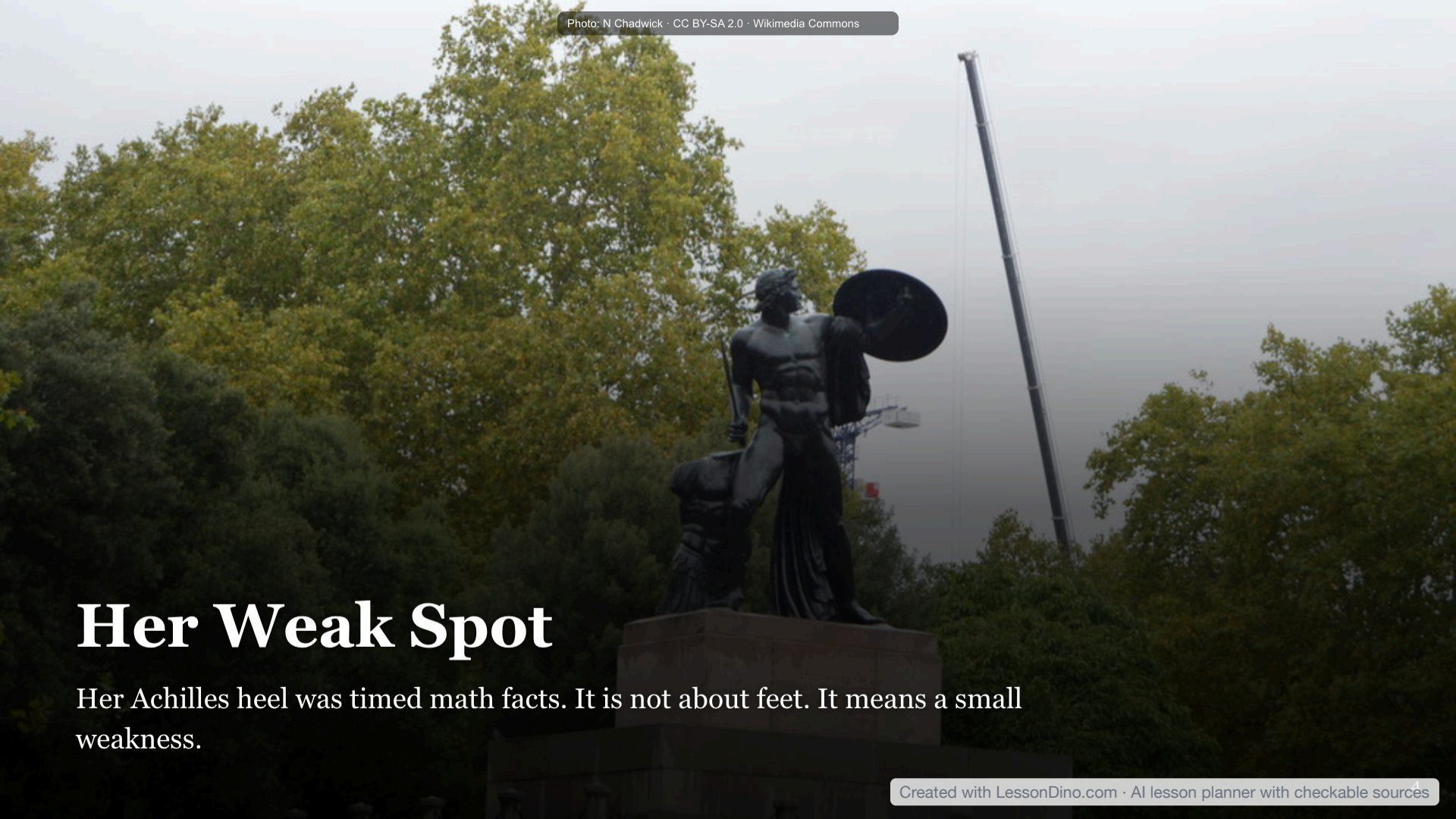
words and situation around the hint

interpret

explain what it means here



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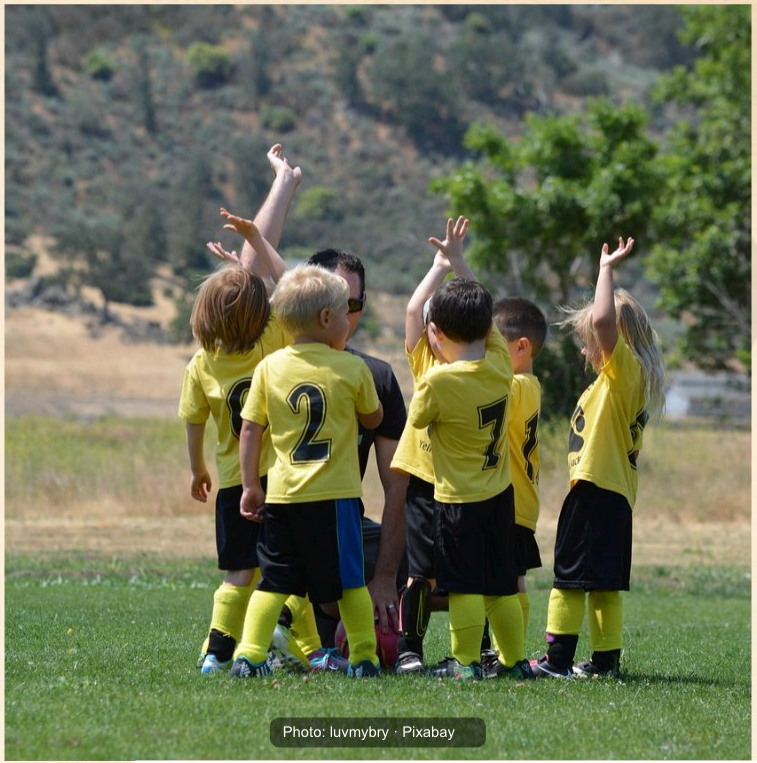
Her Weak Spot

Her Achilles heel was timed math facts. It is not about feet. It means a small weakness.

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Think, pair, share

A coach says, Don't open Pandora's box with rule changes. What is the warning?



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What Is an Allusion?



▶ 0:00 – 5:00

- Watch for what makes a hint an allusion
- Listen for clues that point to a famous story

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Crack It in 4 Moves

Spot words that sound famous → Recall the well-known story → Link the story to this situation → Say what it means here

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Find the Hidden Hint



▶ 0:00 – 2:34

- Spot each allusion as it pops up
- Pause and guess meaning from context

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Your task

In pairs, explain what each hint means in its context.

1. A. That quiz was a Trojan horse - easy look, tricky inside.
2. B. The small team faced a David and Goliath game.
3. C. Those two lab partners are Romeo and Juliet.
4. Tell the meaning and clue words that helped.

10 min

In pairs



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Three Kinds of Hints

Allusions

- literary: novels, plays, poems
- mythological: gods, heroes, monsters
- short hint, big idea
- biblical: well-known Bible stories
- context shows the meaning

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What could this be?

A student warns, That link is a Trojan horse! Gift or trap?



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Quick quiz

1. Her Achilles heel is spelling. What does it mean?

2. They called the final a David and Goliath match. Why?

3. Why do you need context to get an allusion?



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