



The Denver Branch of the ESU presents
The 16th Annual Dr. Howard F. Beckley High School Writing Competition

Allegory in Art Beyond Literature

**COMPETITION OPEN TO DENVER AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
COMPOSE AN ESSAY BETWEEN 800-1,500 WORDS
BASED ON THE ATTACHED PROMPT**

Email essays as Word attachments, with full name, school & teacher's name to
beckleywriting@gmail.com

****entries must be received by 11:59pm on November 22****

First Prize: \$500.00

Second Prize: \$250.00

Third Prize: \$100.00

Winners will be notified by November 29, 2025

**Winners must commit to attend the Denver ESU Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 7
to read their winning essay. (1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Denver Woman's Press Club, Denver)**

****If unable to attend, prize money will be forfeited.**

Judges will grade entries on:

Adherence to correct English grammar, syntax, and punctuation

Effective and clear essay structure

Quality and originality of work

*Remember: All resources must be clearly and appropriately cited using a MLA
conventions including a works cited page

Allegory: a story, play, poem, picture, or other work in which the characters and events represent particular qualities or ideas that relate to morals, religion, or politics.

The Cambridge English Dictionary definition encapsulates the importance of allegory as a device authors and artists call upon to look critically at the nuances of the human experience. Plato's Allegory of the Cave, William Golding's Lord of the Flies, and Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony are common literary examples of an author's masterful use of allegory to add profound depth to their intents for their respective stories.

Allegory can also be found in other works of art beyond literature. Consider Daniel Chester French's statue of Abraham Lincoln at The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. Its political allegory defines a nation at war with itself, using the embattled president's portrayal in the sculpture to symbolize an embattled country. Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 is considered an unconventional psychological allegory of the human psyche, portraying a journey of the emotions that come with both struggle and hope, particularly in the second movement's allegretto.

Conduct your own investigation into the artist's use of allegory to convey a message in either French's Lincoln sculpture or the movements in Beethoven's symphony (see below,)

Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 | Bernard Haitink & the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

[Beethoven: Symphony No. 7](#)

