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## BEFORE READING



### Big Idea

An author can use allegory to show biblical truths.

John Bunyan was a Puritan preacher who wrote *The Pilgrim's Progress* while he was in prison for preaching illegally. The book tells the story of the Christian's journey along the path of life. Although the book was written over three hundred years ago, the story shows the same trials and enemies that a Christian faces today. Written as an allegory, the book helps us clearly see a godly example of faith and hope in the promises of God's Word.



*The Pilgrim's Progress* is written as if it were a dream about a man called Christian. First, he turns from the City of Destruction and comes to the Cross. It is here that Christian's burden of sin is removed. Now his feet are on the King's highway, and he travels on toward the Celestial City. Along the way, Christian must fight against the enemy, Apollyon, and travel through the Valley of the Shadow of Death. Coming out of the valley, Christian meets another pilgrim whose name is Faithful. They walk on until at last they come to Vanity Fair. They stay there longer than they intend to and suffer together. This selection takes Christian to the end of his journey.



### Author's Craft Allusion

**Allusion** in a story or poem is a reference to a well-known person, place, or event. John Bunyan uses allusion in this story to refer to Bible accounts.



### Genre Allegory

An allegory is a story that represents something in addition to itself. Characters, settings, and events are often symbols with a deeper meaning.





*from The Pilgrim's Progress  
by John Bunyan, adapted by Karen Duncan  
illustrated by Zach Franzen*

### **Trouble at the Fair**

Then I saw in my dream that Christian and Faithful saw a town before them. The name of that town is Vanity, and at the town there is a fair called Vanity Fair. It is called Vanity Fair because all that is sold there and all who come there are worthless and empty.

This fair is no new business, but an ancient thing. Almost five thousand years ago, pilgrims began walking to the Celestial City. Beelzebub, Apollyon, and Legion saw that the pilgrims' road led through this town of Vanity. The evil ones decided to set up a fair there. At that fair would be sold all sorts of vanities, everything empty and worthless. That is why these things are found at this fair: houses, lands, businesses, silver, gold, privileges, countries, kingdoms, honors, lusts, pleasures, cheats, and all delights that belong only to this world. Here one can see also, for no extra charge, many thefts, murders, and terrible lies. Indeed, this fair has people from all the countries of the world, and the goods that belong to them are arranged in rows on its streets.

1. How do Christian and Faithful respond to persecution and false accusations at Vanity Fair?
2. What happens as a result of Faithful's death?
3. Where do Christian and Hopeful end up as a result of Christian's decision to walk in By-path Meadow?
4. How does the relationship change between Christian and Hopeful?
5. What makes this story an allegory? What parts of the allegory represent biblical truth?

**Vocabulary**

celestial	notions	scourged	uproar
counseled	perils	stile	utmost
fiend	renegade	subtler	vanity
heretic	ridiculing	testimony	verdict
lament			



**THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS**  
*John Bunyan*  
 map illustrated by Jim Hargis