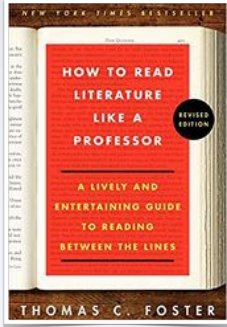


# LITERARY ANALYSIS 101



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## LITERARY ANALYSIS 101

- Reading for enjoyment vs. reading for understanding — difference?
- What was something (movie or book) that you have seen or read lately that seemed similar to another story you've seen or heard?
- Do we keep telling the same stories over and over?



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## THE REVENANT

- Using these ideas and literary analysis strategies, discuss how it all relates to *The Revenant*.
- Choose ONE method of literary analysis and apply it to *The Revenant*:
  - Discuss THREE quotes or specific examples of how the literary analysis method you have chosen relates to the story.



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## LITERARY ANALYSIS 101

- Definitions
  - the similarities between literary texts; everything is connected or influenced
  - patterns; they gain power and recognizability with repetition
  - a “master list” of important works
  - a part is used to stand for the whole



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## SITUATIONAL ARCHETYPES/PATTERNS

- Name a movie or story that uses one of these archetypes:
- Deal with the devil (selling one's soul)
- Spring = youth, promise, rebirth, renewal, fertility
- Tragic downfall is preventable
- Hero wrestling with his/her own demons (maybe comes out victorious?)
- A character faces a challenge that makes them better (or worse?) as they overcome it
- Characters lose innocence due to poor choices or difficult circumstances



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## QUESTS

- What does this all mean?
- A middle-aged man finds himself lost in a “Wood of Error”
- He encounters three vicious beasts that prevent him from leaving
  - Leopard — known for being cunning
  - Lion — known for being violent
  - She-Wolf — known for being uncontrollable
- He encounters his hero (who has been dead for a thousand years), who offers to take him on a three-day journey
- It's also Good Friday...



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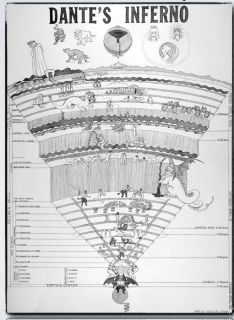
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## QUESTS



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## QUESTS

- "Every Trip is a Quest (Even When It's Not)"
- Quest consists of 5 things:
  - 
  - A stated \_\_\_\_\_ to go there
  - \_\_\_\_\_ on the way
  - A real reason to be going there
- Real Reason?
  - Self knowledge, self discovery, self fulfillment
  - Metonyms:
    - 
    -



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## ACTS OF COMMUNION

- "Nice to Eat with You: Acts of Communion"
- Eating & Drinking =
  - 
  - Shared experience
  - Not always holy
  - Indicates how characters are getting along or how they plan to overcome an obstacle
  - We all eat, we all die (mortality)



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**VAMPIRES**

- "Nice to Eat You"
- Classic traits for a Vampire story:
  - Older figure representing corrupt, outworn values
  - A young, preferably virginal female
  - A stripping away of her youth, energy, virtue
  - Death or destruction of the young woman
- Victorian Era Taboos
- Vampires/Ghosts ALWAYS symbolic!
- 
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**ORIGINALITY?**

- Story 1:
  - Characters caught in a hysteria of accusations against their peers

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- Story 2:
  - **ORIGINALITY?**
  - Love at first sight
  - Families keep them apart
  - Various threats of societal problems and violence

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**ORIGINALITY?**

- Story 3:
- One person's struggle against an oppressive government that is constantly monitoring society's every move
- He has the help of a revolutionary and headstrong partner

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**ORIGINALITY?**

- Story 4:
- A man seeks adventure in the wild and is confronted by a vicious beast. Now he must see if he can survive and make his way home.

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**ORIGINALITY?**

- Story 5:
- A man is driven by his ambition to become eternal
- He has a nemesis whom he must overcome
- He engages in activities that are dangerous to his life and safety, and sacrifices his own peace and happiness to achieve immortality through fame

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## ORIGINALITY?

- Story 6:
- A brotherly rivalry leads to a violent clash that leads one brother to kill the other in a fit of passion

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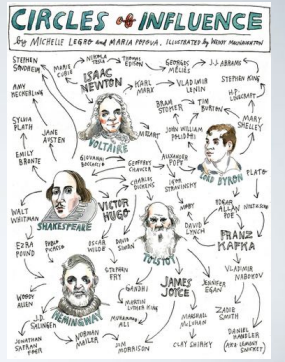
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## ORIGINALITY

- “Now, Where Have I Seen Her Before?”
  - — we’ve all been influenced
- Connections to past characters
- Stories come out of other stories
  - — not just a homage to previous works
- Authors expect the reader to make connections
- But what if I miss the connections (because I haven’t read it all)?
- So does that mean I can use other stories for comparison when reading & creative writing?



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## THE BIBLE

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- Biblical Archetypes (Patterns):
  - Garden
  - Serpent
  - Plague
  - Flood
  - Parting of Waters (metaphorical or literal)
  - Loaves
  - Fishes
  - Forty Days (desert, trials)
  - Temptation
  - Betrayal
- Denial
- Slavery and Escape
- Fatted Calves (sometimes golden)
- Milk & Honey
- Tongues of Flames
- Voices from whirlwinds
- Apocalypse
- Four Horsemen
- Fall from grace/loss of innocence
- Circle of Life
- Prodigal Son
- Tension(s) between brothers

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### CHRIST SYMBOLS

- What kinds of characteristics did Christ or his disciples possess?
- Which stories have you read that use those same archetypes?



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### CHRIST ARCHETYPES

- Crucifixion (hand, foot, side, head wounds)
- Agony
- Good with children
- Self-sacrificing
- Loaves, fishes, water, wine
- 33 years old
- Carpentry (humble origins)
- Very basic modes of transportation
- Walking on water
- Outstretched arms
- Time alone in the wilderness
- Tempted by the devil
- In the company of thieves and sinners
- Creator of parables/aphorisms
- Arose from the dead
- 3 days
- Disciples (notably 12, of varying degrees of devotion)
- Forgiving
- Came to save an undeserving world

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### CHRIST SYMBOLS

- Themes associated with Christ figures:
  - over adversity
- Value of
- Attainment of



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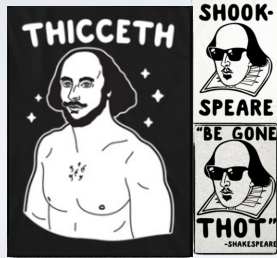
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## SHAKESPEARE

- “When in Doubt, It’s from Shakespeare”



**THINGS WE SAY TODAY,  
WHICH WE OWE TO  
SHAKESPEARE:**

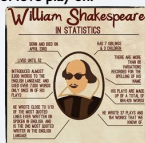
HOODS, MOOD, WHO'S THERE? "BEARY OF  
IN A PICKLE" "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE" "GOLD  
"FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "GOOD FORTUNES" "SEND HIM PACKING"  
"LIE" "FIGHT FIRE" "BATTED" "COME WHAT MAY"  
"WITH FIRE" "BREATHE" "THE GAME IS UP"  
"WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE"  
"NOT SLEEP" "FULL CIRCLE" "OUT OF THE SHOP OF DEATH"  
"COME WINE" "TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"  
"WANTS DONE IS DONE" "NAMED" "BREAK THE ICE"  
"LAUGHING STOCK" "TREATING HIS LAST" "WILD  
"HEART OF HEAVY" "VANISH INTO THE AIR" "GOOSE  
"SINK BETTER DAVE" "WASH YOUR HANDS ON THE" "CHALE"  
"DEAD AS A" "FOR GOODNESS SAKE" "LOVE IS  
"DOORNAIL" "FAIR / FOUL" "OFF WITH  
"GREEN EYES" "HONEST PLAY / PLAY" "HIS HEAD"  
"THE WORLD IS" "BRAND NEW" "WORLD" "BLIND"  
"MY OYSTER" "BE ALL / END ALL" "A SORRY SIGHT"

## SONNET 73

That time of year thou mayst in me behold  
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang  
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,  
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds sang.  
In me thou see'st the twilight of such day  
As after sunset fadeth in the west,  
Which by and by black night doth take away,  
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.  
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire  
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,  
As the death-bed whereon it must expire,  
Consum'd with that which it was nourish'd by.  
This thou perceiv'st, which makes thy love more strong,  
To love that well which thou must leave ere long.

## SHAKESPEARE

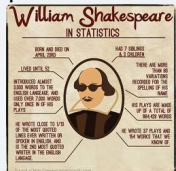
- “To be, or not to be; that is the question.”
- “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”
- “Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste of death but once.”
- “I am one who loved not wisely but too well.”
- “The lady doth protest too much, methinks.”
- “Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”
- “If music be the food of love play on.”





## SHAKESPEARE

- Good writers write well... *GREAT* writers do that and cause us to question what we think we already know.
- Compelling characters
- Great stories (both comedic and tragic)
- Terrific language
- But what if my previous teachers have *failed* me and have not exposed me to Shakespeare?



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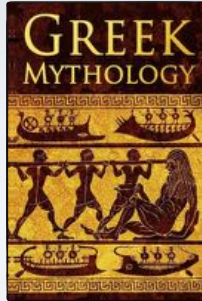
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## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

- Greek Archetypes:
  - The need to protect one's family
  - The need to maintain one's dignity
  - The determination to remain faithful
  - The struggle to return home
- Types of Conflict:
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  - 
  - 
  - 
  -



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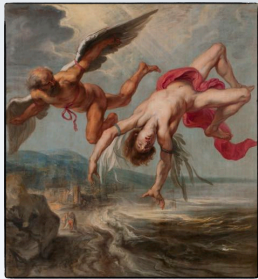
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## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

- - Parental attempt to save the child
  - Failure of the attempt and the resulting grief
  - Cure that proves as deadly as the disease
  - Youthful exuberance leads to self-destruction
  - The clash between sober, adult wisdom and childhood's recklessness
  - Terror



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## WHAT IS THIS STORY ALL ABOUT?

- A medieval kingdom faces hardship because crops are failing, the lands is plagued by drought, livestock and people are dying, and the kingdom is becoming a wasteland under the leadership of an old King.
- He sends a young knight, armed with sword and spear, to seek out a chalice — a Holy Grail.



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## IT'S ALL ABOUT WHAT?

- Impact of *On the Interpretation of Dreams (1899)*
- Symbols:
  - Lance, keys, swords, guns = ?
  - Chalice/holy grail, lock, precious bowl = ?
  - Waves = ?
  - Wrestling = ?
- When writers write about sex, they're really writing about something else.

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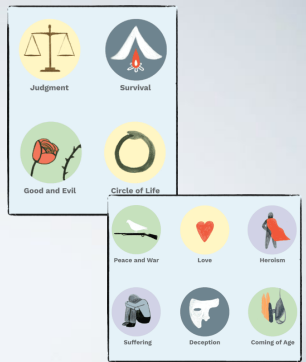
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## IS THAT A SYMBOL?

- So, is my English teacher full of it?...  
*Everything is a symbol!!*
- Ask:
  - What does it mean?
  - What does it stand for?
- Symbolism is NOT universal —



- A series of symbols that individually represent various ideas
- ONE PARTICULAR message
- Weather/Seasons?
- Geography?
- Violence?
- Physical deformity?

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## TEST

- Key questions to ask as you read:
  - *What* does the story signify?
  - *How* does it signify?
- Rules for analysis:
  - Read very carefully (no skimming!)
  - Use interpretive strategies as you read
  - Take notes as you read
  - Outside resources *after* you read
- First, the obvious — then the *noumenal* level
  - — spiritual or essential level of being
- As long as you can support it with the text, you're right!



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## THE REVENANT

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