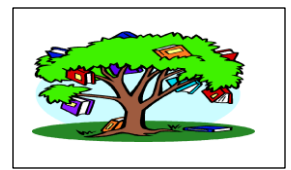


Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



Social Criticism

Social Criticism deals with social structure, power, politics and agency. It deals with literature as a reflection on culture.

Marxism (Oppression)

- + Deals with the struggles of the poor and oppressed against the rich and enfranchised.
- + Focus is on labor practices, class, economics, and social cohesion.
- + Questions to ask:
 - How is class struggle and labor attitudes defined and dealt with?
 - How does the worker emerge victorious, and why should he or she prevail?
 - What gives the rich and enfranchised their power, and what results from it?

Feminism (Repression)

- + Deals with fair representation and treatment of femininity and individuality
- + Focus is on how women are portrayed.
- + Questions to ask:
 - What is being repressed in a person and why?
 - What struggles and opportunities do people face in defining themselves?
 - What is triumphant or defeated when it is expressed? What is learned?

Racism (Suppression)

- + Deals with racial minorities and struggle for equality, fairness and inclusion.
- + Focus is on dynamics of prejudice, social positioning, and character.
- + Questions to ask:
 - What gives rise to racial oppression?
 - What qualities are seen in individuals in the text that defy stereotypes?
 - What is seen in a person in position vs. a person in practice?

Legalism (Expression)

- + Deals how the law is expressed: either obeyed and served, or used and manipulated.
- + Focus is on the nature and locus of law, who wields it, and what the impact is.
- + Questions to ask:
 - What is the law and where does it reside in the work?
 - What does relation to and treatment of law reveal about the character/society?
 - What is the effect of integrity or hypocrisy in the work?

Environmentalism (Green)

- + What is the level of priority given to the nurture of the environment?
- + How do people relate to, care for, or misuse the world in which they live?