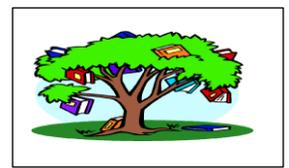


# Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



## Psychoanalytic and Archetypal Criticism

*A Critical Method is a "lens" to analyze the details of a work to arrive at a thesis.*

**Psychoanalytic Criticism** uncovers the working of the human soul, especially the unconscious

### Assumptions

- ❖ Freud posited that the unconscious dominated over the conscious
- ❖ Symbols express the unconscious mind
- ❖ Sexuality is a powerful force to motivate behavior

### Tasks

- Analyze text like a dream to search out repressed meaning found in symbols
- Develop a psychological analysis of a character
  - How the tension between the id (base desires) and superego (morality) is dealt with in the ego (what is evident in and to the personality)

### Questions to ask

- ✚ How does this text use or represent the unconscious mind?
- ✚ What symbols or imagery reveal how greed, lust & pride in the characters interact with resources, relationships and responsibilities in the work?
- ✚ What in the characters' unconsciousness motivates them?
- ✚ What symbols or metaphor clues point to what is hidden?

**Archetypal Criticism** seeks to understand objects in the collective unconscious

- ❖ Individual types include
  - The Villain: attractive or unattractive, but compelling
  - The Hero: tragic victim who overcomes to save someone
  - The Outcast: someone who doesn't conform to surroundings or the culture
- ❖ Situations
  - The Quest: A journey to discover oneself
  - The Journal: A path that is recorded for posterity
  - Rite of Passage: An event demarcating stages in a life, moving to the next level
  - Death and Rebirth: The end of the old to usher in the new
- ❖ Symbols
  - Light and Dark: Mysteries and revelation
  - Water and Desert: Abundance and privation
  - Height and Depth: Extremes of exaltation/depravity, honor/degradation
  - Spring and Winter: Growth and life vs. Loss and death
- ❖ There can be multiple archetypes, but not everything is an archetype.
- ❖ Questions to ask;
  - ✚ How do these symbols fit into the larger meaning of the work?
  - ✚ If these archetypes are recurring, why?