



Addison Trail High School

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May 20, 2022

Welcome to your Advanced Placement Literature Course! For your summer reading, a cursory understanding of schools of literary criticism will be the ideal position from which to begin the course. Literary theory, in simple terms, is the act of reading a piece of literature with a specific perspective or lens to allow you to consider a variety of characteristics within a school of theory. To read with a specific critical lens is to read and analyze the details within the piece of literature and consider the bigger picture or message the author argues. To commence your summer reading, explore the following link detailing what literary theory is, and familiarize yourself with the different schools listed, specifically the Critical School of Disabilities and the Psychoanalytic Criticism :

Critical School of Disabilities: Purdue Owl

A few critical questions to consider are here, but see the link for the full list:

- How is a disability represented in literature?
- Does the narrative refigure the ways we define the human body? For example, how is prosthesis or technology tied to the body, and how does this change the ways we relate to our environment?
- What symbolism is attached to disability?

Psychoanalytic Criticism: Purdue Owl

A few critical questions to consider are here, but see the link for the full list (some of you with Psychology class background may recognize the concepts within the questions):

- Are there prominent words in the piece that could have different or hidden meanings? Could there be a subconscious reason for the author using these "problem words"?
- What connections can we make between elements of the text and the archetypes? (Mask, Shadow, Anima, Animus)
- How does the protagonist reflect the hero of myth?
- Does the "hero" embark on a journey in either a physical or spiritual sense?
- What trials or ordeals does the protagonist face? What is the reward for overcoming them?

See the next page for the assignment.

Achieving The Highest Standards

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For your summer assignment, you will choose **either** lens and apply the "Typical Questions" listed with that school to **one** of the following short stories. Again, either visit the link or see the attached printouts to get a more detailed understanding of the 2 theories and questions before you choose your focus. That focus should be tied to what you inferred while reading and annotating the story.

Story options:

"Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams" by Sylvia Plath

"The Door" by E. B. White

"Ward No. 6" by Anton Chekhov

You may type the questions associated with your chosen critical lens as your prompts and respond to each in a journal style structure (complete sentences but not as formally organized as an essay). In your response, address how the author presents the story in relation to the questions and try to include specific examples from the stories to support your answers.

We look forward to meeting and discussing these with you all. The summer assignment will be due the 3rd week of school, so after we meet you as a senior of Addison Trail's Class of 2022-2023, we will share the exact date.

Stay well and enjoy the readings in a more comfortable setting.



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