

English 2332: Brit/World Lit.
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LITERARY CRITICISM

The paradigms and the possibilities—



- ▶ Creative writing remains a focal point of our society—it explains our diversity as humans and enables different ideas to be traded between people and cultures.

OVERVIEW

From the college text book
Current Issues and Enduring Questions, the editors state:

“What about the consequences of the effects of literature? Does literature shape our character and therefore influence our behavior? It is generally believed that it does have an effect [...] The Greek philosopher Plato (427-347 BCE) strongly believed that the literature we hear or read shapes our later behavior, and since most of the ancient Greek traditional stories [...] celebrate acts of love and war rather than of justice, he prohibited the reading of such material in his ideal society” (442).

OVERVIEW

Elements which Help Develop Stronger Critical Analysis:

- ▶ 1. characters' actions
- ▶ 2. characters' intentions
- ▶ 3. plot rhythms— combination of protagonist's journey, flow of information and literary modes
- ▶ 4. story structure— also referred to as Freytag's Pyramid
- ▶ 5. points of view— or Narrative Voice

OVERVIEW

- ▶ Literary criticism helps scholars explore the construction of a literary product.
- ▶ —helps understand the strategies and methods an author has chosen for a selected work.
- ▶ — allows for comparing and contrasting various works for in depth analysis of a specific genre or art movement.
- ▶ —encourages new literature.
- ▶ Important aspects of a chosen literary work are revealed, adding a new layer of understanding to the overall reading experience.

The different schools of criticism allow for different approaches of thought and explain further concepts on how fiction, poetry, and plays develop in the culture.

A REINTERPRETATION

- ▶ **Definition:**
a typical example or pattern of something; a model.
- ▶ The following paradigms of literary criticism will be discussed soon in future classes:
 1. Biographical
 2. Formalist
 3. **Gender & Feminist**
 4. Mythic or Archetypal
 5. **New Historicism**
 6. **Psychoanalytical**
 7. **Sociological/Marxist**
 8. Queer Studies
 9. Deconstructionism

PARADIGMS