

Hawthorne's Use of Archetype



Archetypes in Action

John Milton is one of England's most celebrated poets.

- He is best known for writing the epic poem *Paradise Lost*.
- This poem is based on the story of Genesis from the King James translation of scripture, specifically chapters 1 - 3, which outline the Fall of Humankind.
- Milton reinvents and embellishes the story with new details, creating a background story to explain Satan's drive against God's Will.
- Milton will use the basic archetypical characters presented in KJV of Genesis:

God

Satan (Snake)

Adam

Eve

- According to Milton, the rebel angel Lucifer falls into hell and plots against God and his experiment of the World. Satan wants to poison Eden.

Archetypes in Action

- By tricking Eve with what seems logical rhetoric, she will sin. Adam finding out her error consents to sinning as well as a means of sacrifice.

What is important about this gesture, Milton portrays Adam committing a deeper sinner than Eve; Adam is aware that what he is doing is wrong.

- One can argue that Hawthorne is taking Milton's view of Eden as inspiration.

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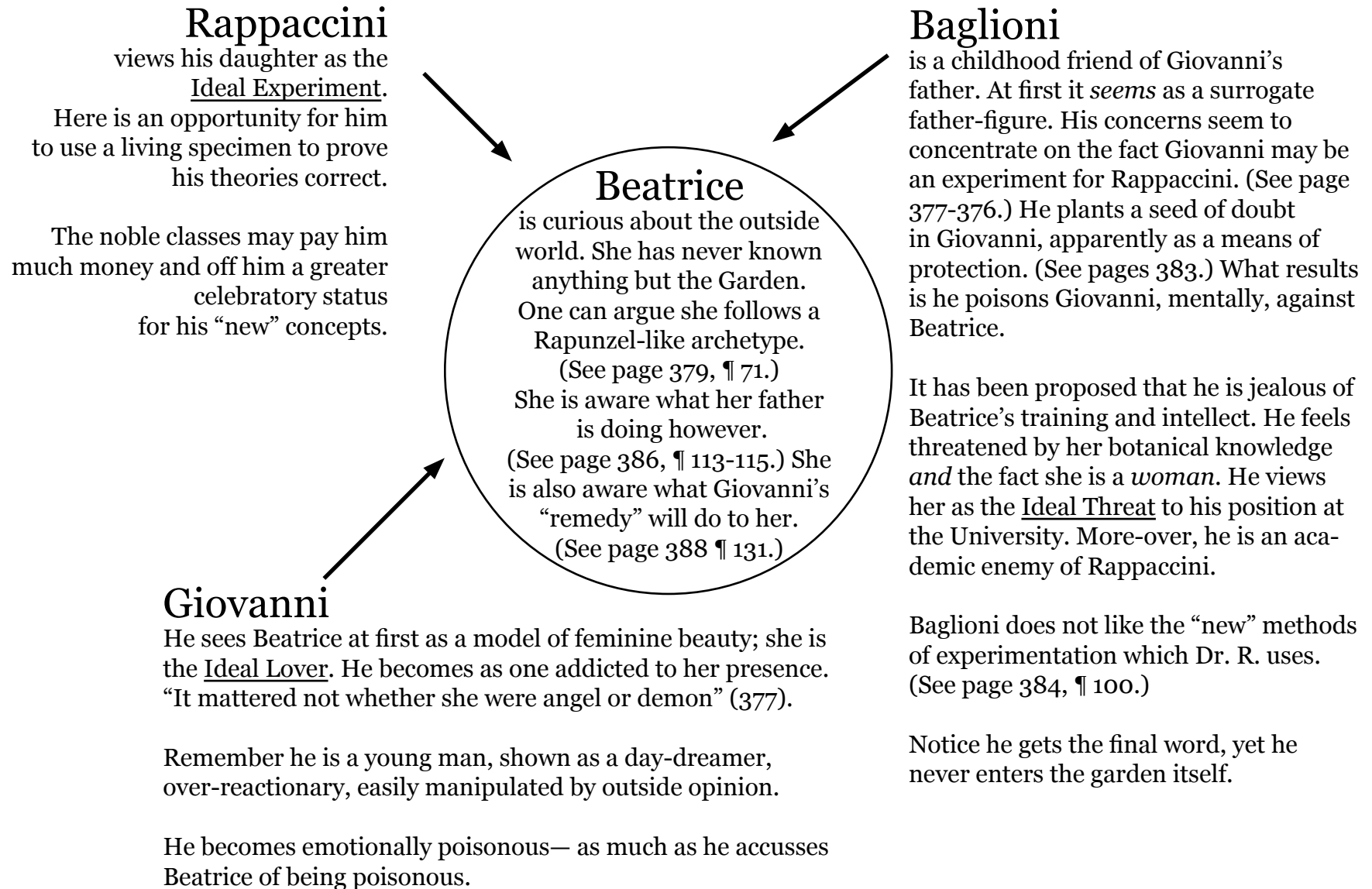
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The Garden is presented with multiple descriptions:

- labyrinth-like, jungle-like with snake-like vines
- laboratory for medicinal studies and botanical studies
- Most importantly Hawthorne himself calls it an:
“Eden of poisonous flowers” (381).

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Character Motivation in “Rappaccini’s Daughter”—



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Ultimately:

None of the male characters see Beatrice for what she really is. All three are blind to her potential as a figure of intellect and creativity. Only Beatrice has a clear picture of her identity and purpose. She will sacrifice herself in order to “save” Giovanni and to prove her innocence.