

## TERMS:

Narrative – a sequence of events, real or imaginary, that record or imitate life

Narrative style – diction, syntax, figurative language, literary allusion, structure/organization

- Diction – word choice (choice of phrases)
- Syntax – the construction of sentences
  - Denotative v. connotative
  - Formal v. informal
- Literary allusion – referencing other texts

Atmosphere – setting, diction/syntax (genre), the mood or feeling a piece of work gives

Setting – The time, place, and social circumstances in which a story takes place, shapes character

Character – Agents of the narrative who advance the plot forward

- Flat - stock character (2D)
- Round - interior, psychologically complex
- Protagonist – Who we get the story from (good guy), perspective/pov readers are expected to share
- Antagonist – bad guy, opposing/impeding the protagonist in some way

Narrative Perspective – Standpoint from which a story is told

- Focus – Spatial/distance, how far from the action
- Time – Past/present/future
- First person – “I”, “Me”
- Third person omniscient – Placed outside of the events, know all
  - E.g. Occurrence on Owl Creek Bridge, Ambrose Bierce

Symbol – signifies something beyond itself (usually an abstract idea, culturally important)

- Conventional – A symbol understood outside the text, many know (Maple leaf)
- Private/personal – Interpretive, meaning comes from the web of connections, sometimes across texts

Allegory – Something that stands for something besides itself

- Specific meaning, contained within a recognizable system of meanings
- Specific (symbols can generate multiple meanings)

Absurd – Idea of meaninglessness (existential worldview), uncaring universe, no inherent truth or higher purpose, grossly comic

- Victorian bourgeoisie

Genre –

- Tragedy – Imitation of a noble and complete action, having a proper magnitude, enhanced through meter and song. Typically dramas and theatre performances
  - Anagnorisis – The discovery of facts hitherto unknown to the hero (recognition)
  - Peripeteia – Reversal of one's fortune
  - Hamartia – Tragic flaw, reason why a hero makes a fall
- Epic – Narrative poem about a legend or national hero. Told in elevated style/language, takes place on a grand scale, supernatural/godly intervention
  - Traditional – One that was originally oral
  - Literary – One which is written down
  - Remediation – New mode of communication is interacting with/transforming an older mode of communication
  - Hero's Journey:
    - Departure: Departs from the home
    - Initiation: Goes through challenges
    - Return: Has the ability to bestow boons on fellow men
- Bildungsroman – Coming of age novel
  - formation/education
  - identity/individualism

- linear and progressive development
- Graphic novel – Combining the form of the comic book with the long-form narrative of the novel
  - Self-contained

## TEXTS

1. "The Fall of the House of Usher" – Edgar Allen Poe
  - Genre: Gothic
  - Main characters: Roderick and Madeline Usher, unknown narrator
  - Setting: Just before the Industrial Revolution, isolated (countryside)
  - Themes: inside/outside (repression), impact of the modern world, gender
2. "Hills Like White Elephants" – Ernest Hemmingway
  - Genre: journalist, realism
  - Main characters: Jig, The American
  - Setting: Ebro, Spain (train station) → liminal
  - Themes: Impact of the modern world, time + space (modern?), gender (male gaze, sexualisation of the woman figure)
3. "An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge" – Ambrose Bierce
  - Genre: journalistic style
  - Main Characters: Peyton Farquhar (narrative perspective changes from 3<sup>rd</sup> person limited to 3<sup>rd</sup> person omniscient)
  - Setting: The south, Alabama, starts on Owl Creek Bridge, moves to Peyton's plantation home
  - Themes: Liminal, transitional, inside + outside, time + space
4. "The Metamorphosis" – Franz Kafka
  - Genre: Realism/absurd
  - Main Characters: Gregor Samsa, Grete Samsa, Herr and Frau Samsa
  - Setting: The Samsa's apartment, last bit takes place in the countryside
  - Themes: Isolation/alienation, modern world impact, purpose, identity
5. *Gilgamesh* – translated by Stephen Mitchell
  - Genre: epic

- Main Characters: Gilgamesh, Enkidu, Shamhat, Ishtar, Utnapishtim, Humbaba
- Setting: Uruk, Cedar forest, Spiritual world (vast)
- Themes: Gender, the doppelgänger (Gil + Enk, Gil + Utnapish), identity, the quest

#### 6. *Oedipus the King* – Sophocles

- Genre: Tragedy
- Main Characters: Oedipus, Jocasta, Tiresias, Creon
- Setting: Thebes → all in front of the palace (closed)
- Themes: Fate (control), identity,

#### 7. *The Bell Jar* – Sylvia Plath (Victoria Lucas first published name)

- Genre: Bildungsroman
- Main Characters: Esther Greenwood (Elly Higginbottom), Joan, Betsy, Buddy Willard, Doreen, Mrs. Willard, Philomena Guinea, Jay Cee, Doctor Nolan
- Setting: New York, the Amazon hotel, Sanatorium
- Themes: Identity, gender, double,

#### 8. *Ghost World* – Daniel Clowes

- Genre: Graphic novel, Bildungsroman
- Main Characters: Becky Dopelmeyer (doppelgänger), Enid, Josh, the Satanists, "Weird Al", Bob Skeetes, John Ellis
- Setting: Some town (ghost world)
- Themes: Modernity, gender, doubles, liminal space

#### PASSAGE ANALYSIS – Ghost World

- Symmetrical, ordered, "perfect" pairing → organized, very schematic
- Language/diction: vulgar, crass, uncensored
- Syntax: unorganized
- Colour of text: green/teal → glow from computer or television screens
  - Remediation? Television to books (reversal of remediation)
  - Impact/alienating + isolating aspect of modernity + technology
- Product of consumerism, they are framed literally, stuck in boxes
- Body as site of experience, performance (of identity, gender)
- Regulation of bodies through technology/ideology of modern society
- Foreshadowing of rift between Enid and Becky
- Abrupt change in conversations, transition

## PASSAGE ANALYSIS – Oedipus

- Fate and identity (themes)
- Jocasta is like an anti-fate, control
- Idea of seeing/knowing, the gaze
- Fear, affect
- Gender, Oedipus ignores Jocasta's council
- Shadows and repetition, diction elevated language
- "Oedipus has this narrative the oracle has given him that he runs away from, but the irony is that he's living that narrative" – ex of thesis

From final lecture:

Narrative – a sequence of events, real or imaginary, arranged as an imitation or record of life

Has a beginning (place from which the action commences)

Plot, setting, tone, atmosphere, diction

Overview of major genres:

Epic (earliest form)

Tragedy (Ancient Greek association)

Rise of modern novel

Graphic novel

- Make sure to not use the same novel in your long answers

Marks WILL go down

- Manage time effectively in part A (70 mins)
- Length doesn't matter, precision and accuracy matter more

Spend 12 minutes per question (ish)

- Begin by collecting a list of literary terms
- Catharsis: catharsis may be defined as the sudden purging or venting of pent up emotion that is characteristic of a Greek tragedy. According to Aristotle, the fate of the tragic hero involves a mix of pity and terror. We pity the man because ... We
- Save the essay you wrote your research essay on for part c along with likely your favourite other text

- Prepare for part c by trying to find overarching themes in the course

Identity, the quest for self and selfhood

The double – self shapes itself through the encounter with another

Gender

Role of genre in shaping narrative, literary forms have a way of creating expectations towards the text (and letting down expectations)

Style, manner of self-presentation



