Unit 2 provides an opportunity to continue your focus on critical perspectives. In this unit, you will learn about Archetypal, Marxist, and Feminist Criticism. You will analyze characters, characterizations, and relationships between and among individuals and groups in a variety of texts, including drama, film, and nonfiction. You will deepen your interpretation and discussion of texts by considering the social and cultural implications of analyzing a text from a particular perspective. By studying texts this way, you will start to understand various textual readings and reflect on whether the understanding of these perspectives enhances or limits your engagement with them.
GOALS:
- To enhance critical thinking by studying Archetypal, Marxist, and Feminist critical perspectives
- To apply multiple critical perspectives to drama, nonfiction, and nonprint texts
- To use the writing process to create an engaging script and an insightful analytical response
- To use a variety of organizational and rhetorical strategies for different modes of writing

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
- subtext
- enfranchisement
- patriarchal
- montage

Literary Terms
- archetypes
- Archetypal Criticism
- motif
- myth
- satire
- genre conventions
- narrative arc
- tone
- artistic license
- Marxist Criticism
- Feminist Criticism
- allusion

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Learning Targets
• Preview the big ideas and the vocabulary for the unit.
• Identify and analyze the skills and knowledge needed to complete Embedded Assessment 1 successfully.

Making Connections
In this unit, you will continue your focus on analyzing literary works through literary criticism. You will use these theories to examine and analyze text while also considering the social and cultural implications of presenting text from a particular perspective. As part of your study, you will write a script for a dramatic scene and also apply a critical perspective to complete a deep analysis of a short story.

Essential Questions
Based on your current knowledge, respond to the Essential Questions.
1. How does applying a critical perspective affect understanding of and engagement with a text?
2. How does power affect people’s interactions and relationships?

Developing Vocabulary
Turn to the Contents page and look at the Academic Vocabulary and Literary Terms. Which do you know already? Use your Reader/Writer Notebook to make notes about the vocabulary knowledge you will acquire in this unit.

Unpacking Embedded Assessment 1
Read the following assignment for Embedded Assessment 1 and summarize the major elements in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

Work with a partner to write a script that transforms a scene from Pygmalion so that it reflects one of the critical perspectives you have studied. You will also write a reflection analyzing and evaluating your process and product.

Summarize in your own words what you will need to know for this assessment. With your class, create a graphic organizer that represents the skills and knowledge you will need to accomplish this task, and strategize how you will complete the assignment. To help you complete your graphic organizer, be sure to review the criteria in the Scoring Guide.
Learning Targets
• Collaborate with peers to understand and apply the definition of archetype.
• Develop knowledge of literary theory by viewing and analyzing film.
• Generate and present a clear visual representation of the common assumptions of Archetypal Criticism.

How Is My Perspective Shaped?
Reading and viewing are not passive activities. You bring certain levels of engagement to your reading and viewing, just as you bring biases, experiences, and prior knowledge to any text you read.

Reading drama can be demanding because most often there is no narrative point of view to help the reader understand the action. To infer meaning fully, readers and viewers have to attend to the usual literary elements, as well as dramatic elements such as stage directions, dialogue, action, subtext, costume, and set design.

At the same time, you can layer on a critical perspective or lens through which to interpret and understand the larger ideas of the drama. In this way you can form, challenge, and critique the ideas and opinions presented in the drama. Examining texts through multiple literary theories provides you the opportunity to sharpen your analytical skills as you consider alternative ways to view texts.

In the previous unit, you worked with Reader Response Criticism and Cultural Criticism. In this unit, you will explore three new theories: Archetypal Criticism, Marxist Criticism, and Feminist Criticism. The first half of the unit will focus on Archetypal Criticism and Marxist Criticism, and the second half will focus on Feminist Criticism.

Archetypal Criticism deals with similar patterns in the literature of widely diverse cultures. For example, most cultures have stories that present a hero’s journey. The following are common assumptions in Archetypal Criticism:
• Certain images that share a common interpretation recur in texts from diverse cultures—water, sun, colors, a tree, settings such as the garden or the desert.
• Certain characters recur—the hero, the trickster, the great mother, the wise old man, the prodigal son.
• Certain motifs and patterns recur—creation stories, the quest, a voyage to the underworld, journey, initiation.

As a class, you will view a film clip that illustrates some of the concepts of Archetypal Criticism. As you watch the film, pay particular attention to those details that help you understand the film through an archetypal lens.
Archetypal Criticism in Film

Film Title: ________________________________

First Viewing
1. Compose a quickwrite that describes your initial response to the main character. Include several adjectives that describe this character.

Second Viewing
Use these questions to guide your second viewing of the clip:
2. What in the clip indicates that this story has an unusual plot?
3. What unusual or remarkable qualities does the main character have? What might these qualities represent?
4. What types of other characters are there? What might these characters represent?
5. What motif or pattern that you have studied in other literary works appears here?

Visualizing Archetypes
6. Read and discuss the definitions of archetype and Archetypal Criticism.
7. The theory of Archetypal Criticism suggests that the study of literature can and should examine archetypes to derive meaning from literature. In small groups, identify a familiar work of literature, film, or television that includes archetypes. On a large piece of poster paper, list the archetypes you have identified, using the following categories.
   • IMAGES—e.g. fire, rose, snake, water, sun, colors, settings
   • CHARACTERS—e.g. hero, sidekick, villain, trickster, great mother, wise old man, prodigal son
   • MOTIFS AND PATTERNS—e.g. creation stories, quest, voyage to the underworld, journey, initiation, pursuit of revenge, damsel in distress, loss of innocence
8. With your group, illustrate and label your poster, highlighting the archetypes and their characteristics.
9. Be prepared to present your poster to the class.

Check Your Understanding
How might Archetypal Criticism change the way you interpret or understand a film or work of literature?

Literary Terms
A motif is a word, character, object, image, or idea that recurs in a literary work or works. A motif is almost always related to the theme of a work of literature.

Roots and Affixes
Archetypal is an adjective that describes something as an original pattern or prototype. It derives from the Greek word parts arche, meaning “first,” and type, meaning “a mark.”

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## Learning Targets
- Analyze the composition of a scene in a visual medium.
- Make inferences and predictions about a story’s plot and theme based on images.
- Integrate information presented visually with knowledge of literary theories to explain connections.

## Gallery Walk
You will engage in a gallery walk, viewing a collection of photos from *My Fair Lady*, the film version of the play you will be reading in this half of the unit. Take notes on each of the photos.

- Write down the identifying letter or number for each photo.
- Describe the *mise en scène* (scene composition) of the photo. Consider where the characters are in relation to one another and within the setting of the photo.
- Describe the subject(s)—the character(s). Consider costume, facial expression, and body language. You should note the characters’ names and describe each character.

### PHONE # | Description of *Mise en Scène* | Description of Character(s)
--- | --- | ---

---

**LEARNING STRATEGIES:**
Predicting, Graphic Organizer, Note-taking, Group Discussion, Drafting

**My Notes**

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1. Based on your observations of the photos in the gallery walk, predict elements of the play.
   • What is the play’s setting?

   • What is the play about?

   • What kind of characters are in the play?

   • What are the relationships between the various characters?

   • What connections can you make between the images and the literary theories you have studied so far?

2. Discussion Groups: Share your preliminary ideas and discuss connections or differences between your predictions and the predictions of your peers. Make sure to express your ideas clearly and build on others’ ideas in a focused response.

Check Your Understanding

After reviewing the publicity stills and discussing them with your peers, what do you think this play is about? Which critical lenses do you think you could apply to your study of the play?

Explanatory Writing Prompt

Review the photo stills and your predictions. Write a paragraph explaining the connections between the images you viewed, your predictions, and the critical lenses you have studied so far (Reader Response, Cultural, or Archetypal Criticism). How does a critical lens help you make informed predictions about the play’s plot, characters, and thematic concepts? Be sure to:

• Include an explanation about how you applied aspects of a critical lens.
• Support analysis with evidence from the photos.
• Incorporate effective transitions to show relationships among the images, specific evidence, and your reflective ideas.
• Explain your ideas with reflective commentary.

INDEPENDENT READING LINK

Read and Research
Research to learn more about Archetypal Criticism, and then connect your research to your independent reading text. Which archetypes are observable in your independent reading text? How does Archetypal Criticism deepen your understanding of the text? Write a brief response in your Reader/Writer Notebook, citing your research.
Learning Targets

- Analyze a literary text for central ideas and characteristics of archetype.
- Summarize the text, concentrating on the most important elements.
- Examine how an author draws on and transforms ideas from other works.

Preview

In this activity, you will read, analyze, and summarize a myth that inspired George Bernard Shaw’s play, *Pygmalion*.

Setting a Purpose for Reading

- As you read the myth, underline words or phrases that reveal aspects of Pygmalion’s character.
- Circle unknown words and phrases. Try to determine the meaning of the words by using context clues, word parts, or a dictionary.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Roman poet Ovid (43 B.C.–A.D. 18) is best known for *Metamorphoses*, a collection of myths describing transformation. Ovid is notable for his skillful construction of verse, including not only the hexameters of the *Metamorphoses*, but also the elegiacs of *Ars Amatoria*, three books that explore the art of love. The poet was exiled around A.D. 8; the collection of poems called *Tristia* explores his grief.

Myth

**Orpheus Sings:**

**Pygmalion and the Statue**

*by Ovid*

From *Metamorphoses*, Book X

1 Pygmalion had seen them, spending their lives in wickedness, and, offended by the failings that nature gave the female heart, he lived as a bachelor, without a wife or partner for his bed. But, with wonderful skill, he carved a figure, brilliantly, out of snow-white ivory, no mortal woman, and fell in love with his own creation. The features are those of a real girl, who, you might think, lived, and wished to move, if modesty did not forbid it. Indeed, art hides his art. He marvels: and passion, for this bodily image, consumes his heart. Often, he runs his hands over the work, tempted as to whether it is flesh or ivory, not admitting it to be ivory. He kisses it and thinks his kisses are returned; and speaks to it; and holds it, and imagines that his fingers press into the limbs, and is afraid lest bruises appear from the pressure. Now he addresses it with compliments, now brings it gifts that please girls, shells and polished pebbles, little birds, and many-coloured flowers, lilies and tinted beads, and the Heliades’1 amber tears, that drip from the trees. He dresses the body,

---

1 *Heliades*: daughters of Helios, turned into poplar trees
also, in clothing; places rings on the fingers; places a long necklace round its neck; pearls hang from the ears, and cinctures\(^2\) round the breasts. All are fitting; but it appears no less lovely, naked. He arranges the statue on a bed on which cloths dyed with Tyrian murex\(^3\) are spread, and calls it his bedfellow, and rests its neck against soft down, as if it could feel.

2 The day of Venus's festival\(^4\) came, celebrated throughout Cyprus, and heifers, their curved horns gilded, fell, to the blow on their snowy neck. The incense was smoking, when Pygmalion, having made his offering, stood by the altar, and said, shyly: “If you can grant all things, you gods, I wish as a bride to have ...” and not daring to say “the girl of ivory” he said “one like my ivory girl.” Golden Venus, for she herself was present at the festival, knew what the prayer meant, and as a sign of the gods' fondness for him, the flame flared three times, and shook its crown in the air. When he returned, he sought out the image of his girl, and leaning over the couch, kissed her. She felt warm: he pressed his lips to her again, and also touched her breast with his hand. The ivory yielded to his touch, and lost its hardness, altering under his fingers, as the bees' wax of Hymettus\(^5\) softens in the sun, and is molded, under the thumb, into many forms, made usable by use. The lover is stupefied, and joyful, but uncertain, and afraid he is wrong, reaffirms the fulfillment of his wishes, with his hand, again, and again.

3 It was flesh! The pulse throbbed under his thumb. Then the hero, of Paphos,\(^6\) was indeed overfull of words with which to thank Venus, and still pressed his mouth against a mouth that was not merely a likeness. The girl felt the kisses he gave, blushed, and, raising her bashful eyes to the light, saw both her lover and the sky. The goddess attended the marriage that she had brought about, and when the moon's horns had nine times met at the full, the woman bore a son, Paphos, from whom the island takes its name.

Second Read

- Reread the myth to answer these text-dependent questions.
- Write any additional questions you have about the text in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

1. **Key Ideas and Details**: In the first sentence, Ovid writes, “Pygmalion had seen them, spending their lives in wickedness ...” Whom is Ovid writing about when he uses the pronoun “them”? Use text evidence in your answer.

2. **Craft and Structure**: Reread the sentences about the statue in lines 4–7. How does Ovid use two different definitions of art to create meaning in the phrase “art hides his art”?

---

\(^2\) cincture: a belt or sash

\(^3\) Tyrian murex: an expensive purple dye made often reserved for royalty

\(^4\) Venus's festival: a festival in Roman times celebrating the goddess of love and desire

\(^5\) Hymettus: a famous source of honey near Athens, Greece

\(^6\) Paphos: mythical birthplace of Aphrodite
3. **Key Ideas and Details:** Describe Pygmalion at the beginning of the story. How has he changed or not changed by the end of the story?

4. **Key Ideas and Details:** How do the themes of artistic creation and ego or vanity interact in this myth?

**Working from the Text**

5. The Pygmalion myth is one of the sources for George Bernard Shaw’s play *Pygmalion*. Ovid gives us a written version of the myth, which derives from the oral tradition of the early Greeks and Romans. Revisit the myth to look for archetypal characters: the creative person, the object of his affection, and the being who grants his wish. How are these characters represented in the images you viewed in the previous activity?

**Check Your Understanding**

Many stories from different world cultures feature elements of this myth. Why do you think this myth exists in different cultures? What is it in human nature that inspires in us a desire to create life?
ACTIVITY 2.4 continued

Language and Writer’s Craft: Summarizing

Good writers know how to express themselves concisely. When writing a summary of a literary or informational text, the goal is to condense the main idea and details into a concise paragraph or paragraphs. Use these guidelines for writing an effective summary:

• Begin the summary with a statement of the main idea.
• Include only the most significant details that support the main idea.
• Follow the order of details.
• Write in complete, mature, but concise sentences.
• Make no interpretive or analytical statements and draw no conclusions about the textual evidence.
• Use your own words.

PRACTICE Using these guidelines, summarize Ovid’s myth “Pygmalion and the Statue” in a single paragraph.

Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text

Extend your thinking from the summary you wrote in the Language and Writer’s Craft to consider possible themes in Ovid’s “Pygmalion and the Statue.” Draw on your knowledge of common archetypal motifs to explain two themes in the story. Be sure to:

• Begin with a clear thesis that states the themes and how they relate to one or more archetypal motifs.
• Include direct quotations and specific examples from the text to support your analysis.
• Use a coherent organizational structure and employ transitions effectively to relate textual evidence to the themes.

Reading Pygmalion

You are now ready to start reading Pygmalion. As you read Act I, identify the characters, define the conflicts, and apply the archetypal perspective to gain understanding of the characters’ relationships. Use sticky notes to identify the textual evidence that will help you answer these questions:

• How do Shaw’s characters fit into the Pygmalion archetype?
• Which archetypal characters do you recognize?
• What recurring motifs or patterns does Shaw introduce in Act I?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

George Bernard Shaw (1856–1950) was an Irish playwright and a cofounder of the London School of Economics. He was a prolific journalist, essayist, novelist, short story writer, and dramatist. He wrote more than 60 plays. Shaw often used wit and satire in writings about significant social issues such as education, marriage, religion, government, and class differences. He is the only person to have been awarded both a Nobel Prize in Literature (1925) and an Oscar (1938, for his work on the film Pygmalion).
Learning Targets

• Analyze how an author develops characters’ motives and interactions.
• Compare and contrast two characters from different texts.

Reflecting on Act I

1. Revisit the questions for Act I posed in Activity 2.4. In discussion groups, share your responses to those questions. Consider what you know about these characters and what you understand about their relationships through the archetypal perspective.

2. Read the following lines from Act I, and then answer these two questions in a quickwrite: What does this boast say about the note taker? What does it say about the flower girl?

THE NOTE TAKER. You see this creature with her kerbstone English: the English that will keep her in the gutter to the end of her days. Well, sir, in three months I could pass that girl off as a duchess at an ambassador’s garden party.

Reading the Play: Act II

3. As you read Act II, identify significant attributes, or characteristics, for each of the characters. Provide textual evidence for your ideas. Consider the following elements of dramatic characterization:
   • What they say (dialogue)
   • What they do (actions)
   • What they think (monologue)
   • What others say about them (dialogue)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Textual Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eliza</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higgins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Pearce</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. In your discussion groups, consider your preliminary responses to the questions below in preparation for a collegial discussion. Come to the discussion group with well-reasoned ideas and evidence from the text to support your responses.

- Are Higgins and Pickering the gentlemen that they appear to be?

- How is Eliza made to conform at Professor Higgins’s home?

- Does social class play a significant role in characterization? Explain.

- How will Eliza need to change in order to be considered a lady?

**Check Your Understanding**

Based on what you have read so far, what appears to motivate each of the characters?

**GRAMMAR & USAGE**

**Idioms**

An idiom is an expression that means something different from the literal meaning of the words. An idiom such as “throw one’s hat into the ring” does not refer literally to throwing a hat into a ring; it can mean announcing you plan to enter a contest. With this and other idioms, context can help you understand the phrase. Many idioms are used only in informal English.

Notice how in Act I, line 11, Freddy states, “there’s not one [cab] to be had for love or money.” Here you have an idiom whose real meaning is that it is impossible to find a cab.

Find two more examples of idioms in *Pygmalion* and explain their meaning to a partner.
Language and Writer’s Craft: Organizing Information

When organizing a text that compares two literary works, an important step is identifying the points of comparison and creating a thesis statement to focus your writing. Then, for each point, cite textual evidence and explain the significance of the evidence. As you develop your ideas, use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text.

Study this model text, which compares Ovid’s Pygmalion to Shaw’s Professor Higgins. With your discussion groups, analyze the organizational structure.

• What is the thesis statement?
• What are the points of comparison?
• How does the writer use transitions to provide smooth links between these points?

Model Text

In Shaw’s Pygmalion, Professor Higgins exhibits drive and passion for creating beauty just as Ovid’s Pygmalion does. Both characters have rejected women. Professor Higgins proudly boasts in Act II that he is “a confirmed old bachelor,” while Pygmalion, “offended by the failings that nature gave the female heart,” lives as a bachelor. However, each takes on the task of shaping or transfiguring a woman. Higgins tells Colonel Pickering that the chore of transforming Eliza is “almost irresistible. She’s so deliciously low—so horribly dirty.” Like Higgins, Pygmalion desires to carve a beautiful figure that he can manipulate and beautify. In their actions, the two characters demonstrate their desires for control and manipulation. In addition, both characters dress and beautify their “works.” Higgins tells Mrs. Pearce to take Eliza’s clothes and burn them, to buy her new ones appropriate for her new station. Similarly, Pygmalion “dresses the body, also, in clothing; places rings on the fingers; places a long necklace round its neck.” Both characters manipulate and control the women, perhaps to enhance their own feelings of power.

PRACTICE Find one other point of comparison the writer could have used in the model text. Draw a chart with one column for Ovid’s text and one for Shaw’s. Add textual evidence from each text that could support your point of comparison. Below each quote, note its significance.

Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text

Compare and contrast the character of Eliza with the statue in the original Pygmalion myth. How is each described by the author? What is their relationship to the other main character in the story? In what ways are they acted upon, and in what ways are they the source of action? Be sure to:

• Begin with a concise comparative thesis statement.
• Provide well-reasoned ideas supported with evidence from each text.
• Use a coherent structure to organize information with appropriate transitions that highlight similarities and differences.
Reading the Play: Act III

5. Continue your reading of *Pygmalion*. Your purposes for this reading are to identify characters, define the conflicts, and apply the archetypal perspective to your understanding of the characters’ relationships.

In Act III, Eliza faces the archetypal character’s challenges of transformation. The character being transformed must often face a test early in the training process and usually commits a significant blunder. Mark the text for evidence that helps you answer these questions:

- What does Eliza say that is offensive?
- How do the other characters react to her comments?
- How does Eliza’s embarrassing experience contribute to the plot and her character development?
- What do her comments say about Higgins as the archetype of the “wise old man,” the teacher?

INDEPENDENT READING LINK

Read and Recommend

In your independent reading, you may be reading a book that has been adapted for film. Write a brief review and recommendation of your independent reading text based on what you have read so far. In your review, briefly say what the text is about, explain how the author expresses ideas through the use of archetypes, and give reasons why you would or would not recommend the text to your peers.
Learning Targets

• Examine multiple interpretations of a text for archetypal patterns and for the use of satire.
• Analyze the conventions of a play script and apply them to writing an original script.

Pygmalion in Film

1. *My Fair Lady* is not the only film interpretation with elements inspired by *Pygmalion*. Your teacher will show you clips from other movies that include *Pygmalion*-inspired scenes. Watch the scenes closely to determine the social blunder and think about why we find humor in this kind of mistake.

2. Higgins and Pickering have worked with Eliza day and night, teaching her proper speech and manners, but it appears they have more work to do in the area of social graces. Review the scene in Act III when Eliza visits Mrs. Higgins on her at-home day; then, respond to these questions:

• What social blunders does Eliza commit?

• How is Shaw making a statement about society through his use of satire?

• How do the guests try to make what they see and what they are hearing go together? Would they do the same for a flower girl? Why or why not?

• Think about a time when you committed a social blunder. What happened?

• Why do we find social blunders humorous?

Check Your Understanding

What are some ways the various interpretations of the Pygmalion myth, including the play and the film clips you viewed, alter or reshape elements of the original myth in order to convey a particular message?
Language and Writer’s Craft: Writing a Play Script

Writing a script for a play involves following certain conventions, or patterns, in order to give an audience context for the story that is taking place. Consider the following genre conventions of writing a play script.

**Title:** The name of the play

**List of Characters:** The people in the play; may include a brief description of each

**Setting:** Where the scene takes place; usually included at the beginning of each scene

**Dialogue:** Dialogue is one of the most important conventions in writing a successful play, because it is how the audience learns about the characters and conflicts. Writers use dialogue to reveal conflict and to move the action of the play through exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Dialogue is also the main area in which writers can add meaning or style through the language they choose.

**Conflict:** Good stories usually revolve around an interesting conflict that complicates the lives of the characters until the problem is resolved.

**Narrative Arc:** Using techniques such as dialogue and conflict, the writer creates a clear and logical progression from one event or experience to the next—a narrative arc.

**Stage Directions:** These indicate the time and place of the action, entrances, exits, movement, and subtext. Stage directions also indicate what the characters are doing on stage as well as provide clues as to how actors should deliver their lines.

**PRACTICE** Return to the beginning of *Pygmalion*, Act I. Identify the details from Act I that illustrate each of the conventions described here.

Narrative Writing Prompt

Think about a social blunder you have committed or can imagine someone committing. Write a one-scene script with at least two characters and your blunder as the problem. Consider the role humor might have in the scene. Be sure to:

- Include the genre conventions of a play script: setting, dialogue, conflict, narrative arc, and stage directions.
- Incorporate dialogue so that the blunder is evident.
- Have the other character or characters react to the blunder.
Learning Targets
• Infer the subtext of dramatic dialogue by analyzing oral and written responses.
• Analyze and annotate text to indicate how to present an oral reading of dialogue.

Analyzing Dialogue
1. This chart contains the text of a dialogue between two characters, A and B. With your classmates, you will perform the dialogue with different scenarios in mind. As you watch the performances, try to identify the subtext of each part of the dialogue. Record notes about the way that tone of voice, pacing, and word emphasis provide clues about subtext.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Performance 1 Subtext (What clues help you figure out the subtext?)</th>
<th>Performance 2 Subtext (What clues help you figure out the subtext?)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Well, here it is.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Is that what I think it is?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. I think so.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Are you sure?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. See for yourself, if you don’t believe me.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Okay, what now?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY
Subtext is the unspoken meaning or context that can be inferred from what is directly stated. Written and spoken texts in many domains may include subtext. For example, a political speech may carry meaning in what is not stated as well as in what is stated. When studying drama, readers look for this implied meaning in order to understand a play on a deeper level.

My Notes
Reading the Play: Act III

As you continue reading, pay close attention to dialogue that implies meaning underlying the text. For example, consider this excerpt from Act I:

THE DAUGHTER. If Freddy had a bit of gumption, he would have got one at the theatre door.

THE MOTHER. What could he have done, poor boy?

Notice the absence of stage directions for these lines. Often, when a writer decides not to include stage directions, it is because he or she is emphasizing the characters' words. Consider the effects of adding stage directions, which help to create specific guidance to deliver different meanings:

THE DAUGHTER. [snarling and growling] If Freddy had a bit of gumption, he would have got one at the theatre door.

Snarling and growling adds the element of anger in the daughter's voice. She is obviously mad at Freddie. Now consider the line with this stage direction:

THE DAUGHTER. [whining] If Freddy had a bit of gumption, he would have got one at the theatre door.

Whining implies that the girl is weak and demanding. Think about how the delivery would change with this stage direction:

THE DAUGHTER. [speaking rapidly and eagerly; jumping up and down] If Freddy had a bit of gumption, he would have got one at the theatre door.

Rapidly and eagerly and jumping up and down imply that the girl is anxious and wants to get out of the rain. Read the next line aloud three times. The first time, emphasize the word What. The next, emphasize could. The next, emphasize done.

THE MOTHER. What could he have done, poor boy?

2. With your discussion group, consider these questions:
   - How does the addition of stage directions affect the delivery of lines?
   - Why do playwrights sometimes omit these directions, and why do they sometimes include them?
   - What is the subtext created by each of the three readings of “What could he have done, poor boy?” Return to Act I, Scene i. Reread this scene and think about what subtext Shaw might have had in mind.

Check Your Understanding

Return to the one-scene script about a social blunder you wrote in the previous activity. Working with a partner, mark the script to show how you would direct actors to deliver the lines to convey the subtext.
Examining Eliza’s Options

Learning Targets
- Predict future actions of characters based on analysis of their choices and behaviors.
- Generate original dialogue depicting the attributes of existing characters.
- Prepare for and participate in a class debate using logical arguments and evidence.

Analyzing the End of Act III
1. Act III ends with Eliza, Higgins, and Pickering leaving the ball. Imagine the conversation that might take place when they get home. With a small group, you will take one of the three characters and explore answers to the following questions.

The Character ________________________________

How does the character typically behave and speak? Use adjectives and adverbs to describe these behaviors. Cite textual evidence.

How does the character feel now that the ball is over? Cite textual evidence from Act III to support your position.

2. Now that you have discussed and taken notes on one of the characters with your small group, you will work with another group to create a dialogue among all three characters. Remember that the subtext is often even more important than the words that are spoken, so include any subtext that seems appropriate by noting it in parentheses at the end of the corresponding line.
Reading the Play: Act IV
3. Before reading Act IV, compare the dialogues your class has created. For your comparisons, consider the following and record notes in the space below:
   • Based on textual evidence of events of characters from Acts I–III, which imagined scene is the most plausible?
   • What qualities of plot and character make your selection most authentic?

4. As you read Act IV, mark the text for evidence that either supports or does not support your imagined scene.

Working from the Text
5. After you have read Act IV, compare how the conversation Shaw created is similar to and different from the one you and your group created.

6. In Act IV, Eliza asks, “Where am I to go? What am I to do? What’s to become of me?” What are Eliza’s options, given the setting of the play? Create a bubble cluster or other graphic organizer on which you brainstorm Eliza’s options and the pros and cons of each.

Check Your Understanding
Now that you have read Act IV, you have a clear picture of Higgins’s and Pickering’s attitudes toward their “project.” Think about what Eliza should do next and jot down your ideas in the My Notes area.

7. Prepare for a class debate where you argue what Eliza’s next steps should be. Plan an argument stating your position. Prepare to explain your reasoning using text evidence and to acknowledge counterarguments. Consider each of the three characters—Higgins, Pickering, and Eliza—and pose your ideas from each of their perspectives. Be sure to:
   • Introduce a clear claim as to what Eliza’s next steps should be.
   • Address the three characters’ perspectives with logically presented reasoning and evidence.
   • Support your position with relevant evidence from Acts I–IV.
   • Acknowledge counterclaims.
Learning Targets
- Analyze how the author develops dynamic characters who change over the course of a story.
- Create an alternative ending to *Pygmalion* based on the elements of a critical theory.

Reading the Play: Act V
1. To begin your study of character transformations between Acts I and V, return to Act I. For two major characters—Eliza and Alfred Doolittle—create a two-column note organizer to list their characteristics in Act I. Try to include at least five adjectives to describe each character.

2. Now that you have reviewed Eliza's and Alfred Doolittle’s characters from Act I, reading Act V will help you understand how their characters have changed. In Act V, we are reacquainted with Eliza's father, Alfred Doolittle. Like Eliza, Doolittle has been transformed. As you read the first half of Act V, use a Venn diagram or other graphic organizer to compare and contrast these two transformations. You should consider these points, as well as any others that occur to you:
   - What, specifically, about each character has changed? Refer to the adjectives that you listed in the previous step. What comparisons to these adjectives can you identify?
   - How did the transformation occur?
   - How active was each character in the transformation?
   - How may the transformation affect each character’s future?
   - What is each character’s attitude toward the transformation?
   - What role does social class play in each of their transformations?

3. Answer the questions below after closely rereading the end of *Pygmalion* (beginning when Pickering and Doolittle exit for the wedding, leaving Higgins and Eliza alone).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When is Higgins in control?</th>
<th>When is Eliza in control?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How does he get control?</td>
<td>How does she get control?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does he use his control?</td>
<td>How does she use her control?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. In your discussion groups, cite textual evidence that supports your responses to each of these questions.

- What does each want from the other? How do you think they really feel? In other words, what is the subtext of their lines?
- The play ends with Higgins laughing at the thought of Eliza marrying Freddy. Based on Shaw’s portrayal of these characters, what do you imagine becomes of Eliza and of Higgins?

5. Review Reader Response Critical Theory, Cultural Criticism, and Archetypal Criticism. Select one of these critical perspectives, and write three questions that will help you understand Pygmalion. You may use the questions below as models to craft your own questions:

- Reader Response: As a reader, what attitudes am I bringing to understanding this text?
- Cultural Criticism: What is Shaw saying about the differences in social customs and expectations in this play?
- Archetypal Criticism: Why does Higgins take on the role of the creator or transformer? What’s in it for him?

Check Your Understanding

Share your questions with a partner but do not reveal the critical perspective you chose. After reading the questions out loud, have your partner guess which critical perspective relates to the questions. Then take turns responding to the questions briefly.

Narrative Writing Prompt

Write an alternate ending that adheres to the conventions of a play script, addresses the changes in Eliza’s character in the first half of Act V, and reflects one critical theory. Use well-chosen details and a well-structured event sequence to provide a logical conclusion for the story. You may want to review the elements of script writing in Activity 2.6. Be sure to:

- Follow the conventions of a play script, including all parts.
- Create dialogue that reflects your interpretation of the play through one critical perspective.
- Provide a conclusion that resolves the problem or situation of the story.
Self and Peer Response
After you have responded to the writing prompt, use these questions to review your script:

- Which critical perspective is evident in this alternate ending?
- How has Eliza's transformation led to this alternate ending?
- Note the required components of the script. Comment on the inclusion of each element:
  - **Form**: Are these elements present: title, act number, list of characters, description of setting?
  - **Dialogue**: Does the dialogue help create a logical resolution?
  - **Problem**: Since this scene ends the play, how is the problem or conflict between Eliza and Professor Higgins resolved?
  - **Stage Directions**: How do the stage directions suggest delivery of dialogue or movement of characters?
- What are two suggestions that you can make to improve the quality of the script?

Share your draft with your writing partner. Using the questions above, respond to your partner's script. Then, use the feedback from your partner to revise your draft.
Learning Targets

- Analyze the development of tone and character in a dramatic performance.
- Compare and contrast multiple interpretations of the same story in relation to a critical theory.

Reader Response

1. In the 1950s, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe wrote *My Fair Lady*, their version of *Pygmalion*, for musical theater. In the 1960s, the story underwent another transformation, to the film of the same name. The stage and film versions incorporate many of Shaw’s lines, but they also depart from Shaw’s play in significant ways. As you watch parts of the film, take notes to answer the following questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>“Eliza’s Future”</strong></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the overall <strong>tone</strong> of this scene?</td>
<td>What in the film creates this tone?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does Eliza feel about Higgins?</td>
<td>How can you tell?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does Higgins feel about Eliza?</td>
<td>How can you tell?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who is in control?</td>
<td>How can you tell?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Literary Terms**

*Tone* is the writer’s attitude toward a character, a subject, or the reader.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Without You”</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is the overall tone of this scene?</td>
<td>What in the film creates this tone?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does Eliza feel about Higgins?</td>
<td>How can you tell?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How does Higgins feel about Eliza?</td>
<td>How can you tell?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. On a separate sheet of paper, respond to the following:

“I’ve Grown Accustomed to Her Face”
This song serves as an interior monologue, showing Higgins’s conflicting feelings. Describe the contrasts presented in the song.

“Where the Devil?”
When Higgins goes into his home, the tone of the scene changes. Describe the tone now. What film elements convey that tone? Why do you think the director wanted to set this particular tone?

Study carefully the last few shots of the film. What does the film suggest becomes of Eliza and of Higgins? What details from the film tell you this?

Check Your Understanding
What do you think of the endings of the film and the play? Which do you prefer, and how does your preferred ending relate to Archetypal Criticism? Discuss with a partner.

Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text
Think about which ending, the film’s or the play’s, connects more closely to the original myth. Write an essay that compares and contrasts the endings, and explain how each ending relates to Archetypal Criticism. Be sure to:

- Present a well-reasoned thesis that explains how the different versions of the story reflect ideas of Archetypal Criticism.
- Include appropriate textual evidence from the film, the play, and the myth.
- Use an appropriate organizational structure for a compare/contrast essay.
- Use transitions and syntax effectively to highlight similarities and differences between the endings.
Learning Targets
• Draw on evidence from a source text to adapt a plot summary into a script.
• Develop and strengthen writing by drafting, editing, and revising.

Reading the Play: The Sequel
1. Consider the following quotation from Shaw’s sequel to *Pygmalion*. Do you agree or disagree with Shaw’s interpretation of what Eliza would do?

   This being the state of human affaires, what is Eliza fairly sure to do when she is placed between Freddy and Higgins? … Unless Freddy is biologically repulsive to her, and Higgins biologically attractive to a degree that overwhelms all her other instincts, she will, if she marries either of them, marry Freddy.

   And that is just what Eliza did.

2. As you read the sequel to *Pygmalion*, visualize what Shaw is telling readers. Note below the parts of the sequel that you are able to visualize most clearly (the parts that appeal to your imagination).

Narrative Writing Prompt
Think about the dialogue that would be shared during this scene. Using artistic license, write a script that reflects Shaw’s version of the play’s ending. Consider key points in the plot that would have an impact on the ending. How does Shaw’s ending resolve the conflict of the story? Be sure to:
• Follow Shaw’s version of the story’s ending.
• Structure the ending so that it follows from and reflects on what has been experienced by the characters in the story.
• Use appropriate dialogue that reflects the characters’ personalities and conditions.
• Correctly punctuate the dialogue.

Literary Terms
*Artistic license* describes the practice of rewording dialogue, alteration of language, or reordering of plot of a text created by another artist. The purpose of using “artistic license” is to give a different version of a text or to enhance the text.
Use the space below or separate paper to brainstorm ideas for your script.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title and List of Characters</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem/Dialogue</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage Directions</th>
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</table>

**Check Your Understanding**

- What have you included in your script to reflect Shaw’s summary of the play’s ending?

- How have you used dialogue to portray characters effectively? Is the dialogue punctuated correctly? Revise your script as needed.
Learning Targets
• Identify archetypal elements in a text.
• Apply a critical perspective to the analysis of a text.
• Write an argument evaluating an author’s interpretation of a source text.

Preview
In this activity, you will read excerpts from the play *Pygmalion* and analyze connections to archetypal elements established in Ovid’s myth.

Setting a Purpose for Reading
• As you read the excerpts, put a star next to lines that connect to the archetypal characters of “the creator” and “the created.”
• Circle unknown words and phrases. Try to determine the meaning of the words by using context clues, word parts, or a dictionary.

Drama
from *Pygmalion*

by George Bernard Shaw

1 THE NOTE TAKER. You see this creature with her kerbstone English: the English that will keep her in the gutter to the end of her days. Well, sir, in three months I could pass that girl off as a duchess at an ambassador’s garden party. I could even get her a place as a lady’s maid or shop assistant, which requires better English. (Act I)

2 HIGGINS. Yes, you squashed cabbage leaf, you disgrace to the noble architecture of these columns, you incarnate insult to the English language: I could pass you off as the Queen of Sheba. (Act I)

3 HIGGINS. [carried away] Yes: in six months—in three if she has a good ear and a quick tongue—I’ll take her anywhere and pass her off as anything.

We’ll start today: now! this moment! Take her away and clean her, Mrs. Pearce. (Act II)

4 HIGGINS. [deftly retrieving the handkerchief and intercepting her on her reluctant way to the door] You’re an ungrateful wicked girl. This is my return for offering to take you out of the gutter and dress you beautifully and make a lady of you. (Act II)

5 HIGGINS. What! That thing! Sacred, I assure you. [Rising to explain] You see, she’ll be a pupil; and teaching would be impossible unless pupils were sacred. I’ve taught scores of American millionairesses how to speak English: the best looking women in the world. I’m seasoned. They might as well be blocks of wood. I might as well be a block of wood. (Act II)

6 HIGGINS. Oh, I can’t be bothered with young women. My idea of a lovable woman is something as like you as possible. I shall never get into the way of seriously liking young women: some habits lie too deep to be changed. [Rising abruptly and walking about, jingling his money and his keys in his trouser pockets] Besides, they’re all idiots. (Act III)
7 ELIZA. [continuing] It was just like learning to dance in the fashionable way: there was nothing more than that in it. But do you know what began my real education?

PICKERING. What?

ELIZA. [stopping her work for a moment] Your calling me Miss Doolittle that day when I first came to Wimpole Street. That was the beginning of self-respect for me. [She resumes her stitching] And there were a hundred little things you never noticed, because they came naturally to you. Things about standing up and taking off your hat and opening doors— (Act V)

8 ELIZA. I know. I am not blaming him. It is his way, isn’t it? But it made such a difference to me that you didn’t do it. You see, really and truly, apart from the things anyone can pick up (the dressing and the proper way of speaking, and so on), the difference between a lady and a flower girl is not how she behaves, but how she’s treated. I shall always be a flower girl to Professor Higgins, because he always treats me as a flower girl, and always will; but I know I can be a lady to you, because you always treat me as a lady, and always will. (Act V)

9 ELIZA. You never thought of the trouble it would make for me.

HIGGINS. Would the world ever have been made if its maker had been afraid of making trouble? Making life means making trouble. There’s only one way of escaping trouble; and that’s killing things. Cowards, you notice, are always shrieking to have troublesome people killed. (Act V)

10 HIGGINS. [wondering at her] By George, Eliza, I said I’d make a woman of you; and I have. I like you like this. (Act V)

Second Read
• Reread the excerpts to answer these text-dependent questions.
• Write any additional questions you have about the text in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

1. **Key Ideas and Details:** In the first three excerpts, what is Higgins’s (the Note Taker’s) opinion of himself and of Eliza? What textual clues reveal this opinion?

2. **Craft and Structure:** Think of the multiple meanings of the expression “quick tongue” (excerpt 3). What is the meaning as Higgins uses the phrase here? What other meaning of “quick tongue” does Eliza display in the play?
3. **Key Ideas and Details:** Through most of the myth, Pygmalion’s ideal woman is ivory, not human. She fits the archetype of the created. How do Higgins’s words echo this aspect of the myth in excerpt 5?

4. **Key Ideas and Details:** Reread excerpt 7. How was Eliza’s transformation different from what she expected?

5. **Craft and Structure:** How does Higgins’s ego affect his point of view and create irony in his statement in excerpt 11?

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**Working from the Text**

6. Return to the summary of Ovid’s myth that you wrote for Activity 2.4. Review the text of the myth and your summary. Working with a writing partner, answer these reflective questions:
   - Has the writer included the character of the creator?
   - Has the writer included the character of the created?
   - Has the writer defined the nature of the transformation?
   - Has the writer defined the relationship between the creator and the creation?

7. Reread the excerpts from Shaw’s *Pygmalion*, considering how each excerpt does or does not represent the archetype established in Ovid’s myth. Consider the following elements: the character of the creator, the character of the created, the nature of the transformation, and the relationship between the creator and the created. Make notes on your analysis of each excerpt.
Check Your Understanding
How effective are Shaw’s choices about which elements to adapt or alter from the original Pygmalion myth?

Writing to Sources: Argument

Review your summary of Ovid’s version of the myth and your notes on these excerpts. To what extent does Shaw adhere to or depart from the Pygmalion archetype? How does recognizing the archetype advance or complicate the reading? Write an argumentative essay to defend your analysis of Shaw’s use of the Pygmalion archetype. Be sure to:

- Begin with a clear thesis that includes title, author, and genre that presents your claim.
- Provide multiple examples from the text to support your claim.
- Employ appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas.
- Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the argument presented.

After you have completed your draft, collaborate with a writing partner to enhance your drafts. Complete these next two steps of the writing process:

- REVISE: Review the content by considering the supporting evidence and logical organization of the essay.
- EDIT: Correct any grammar, usage, mechanical, or spelling errors. Give special attention to syntax, correctly punctuating compound sentences.

You may want to create and use a checklist to guide your peer sharing and responding to produce a well-organized, well-supported essay demonstrating maturity of language and insight into Archetypal Criticism.
My Notes

Learning Targets

• Integrate information from multiple sources in order to develop an understanding of Marxist Criticism.
• Characterize how different social classes view certain topics.

Marxist Criticism

Karl Marx lived from 1818 to 1883. During his life, he was a philosopher, economist, political theorist, historian, and author whose work focused on how social classes struggle and how the accumulation of wealth and power enables an economic minority to dominate a working-class majority. He proposed that social conditions result from economic and political conditions. According to Marxist critics, economic conditions heavily influence a culture’s literature. Marxist Criticism asserts that economics is the foundation for all social, political, and ideological reality. Marxist critics would argue that economic inequalities create a power structure that drives history and influences differences in religion, race, ethnicity, and gender. The following are common assumptions of Marxist Criticism:

• Human relations are based on the struggle for economic power.
• The basic struggle in human society is between the “haves” and the “have nots.”

Marxist Literary Criticism looks at ways in which a text reveals the oppression of the working class or poor by a dominant economic elite. Among questions that might be asked when looking at a text through a Marxist Criticism lens are the following:

• Whose viewpoint is represented in the text (that of the poor, middle class, or wealthy)—that is, whose story gets told?
• What values are represented for each of the social classes (poor, middle class, wealthy)?
• What economic and social values do the main characters hold?
• Who is the audience, and what does the text suggest about their values?
1. To begin your study of Marxist Criticism, find and read the lyrics to Tracy Chapman’s song “Talkin’ bout a Revolution.” As you use SOAPSTone to analyze the lyrics, consider the assumptions of Marxist Criticism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occasion</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tone</td>
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</table>
2. **Research:** Marxist Criticism considers characters’ perspectives in terms of economic and social status. It looks at the “hidden rules” that are characteristic of each economic and social class. Conduct research on the concept of “hidden rules” to describe attitudes of each of these groups toward the topics listed in the following graphic organizer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Middle Class</th>
<th>Wealthy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Money</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Use of Time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Behavior and Goals</td>
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</table>

3. Respond to the following questions, using the information from your research.
   - What are the “hidden rules” for each social or economic class? Do you agree that these rules are hidden? Why or why not?
   - What would Marxist Criticism say about these rules? To what extent does a struggle for economic equality cause or perpetuate these differences?
   - Are these differences archetypal or stereotypical? Explain.

**Check Your Understanding**

In your own words, write a list of key elements and considerations of Marxist Criticism.
Learning Targets

• Synthesize knowledge of Marxist Criticism with analysis of a text to create new understandings.
• Articulate how a critical perspective affects the understanding of a text.

Now that you have finished reading *Pygmalion*, look at the drama from the perspective of Marxist Criticism to view the relationship among power, money, and social class.

Power
1. Create a graphic to illustrate the hierarchy of power in *Pygmalion*. In other words, visually represent a ranking of who has the most power to who has the least power. In addition to the major characters (Higgins, Pickering, and Eliza), be sure to include the minor characters, such as Mrs. Pearce, Mrs. Higgins, Mr. Doolittle, Freddy, Clara, and Mrs. Eynsford Hill. Include on your graphic an explanation as to why some of the characters have power while others do not.

Social Class
2. Create a graphic to illustrate the social class structure in *Pygmalion*. First, consider what social classes are and how they are related to power and money. Identify the social classes represented in *Pygmalion*. Who is in each class? What do you think Shaw thought of class divisions? What in the text makes you think this?

Money
3. Create a graphic to illustrate the hierarchy of economic status in *Pygmalion*. What is the economic status of each character? What are the thoughts of each of these characters toward his or her economic status? Be sure to include Eliza, Doolittle, Pickering, Higgins, and Freddy. As you think about Eliza and Doolittle, consider their thoughts and feelings both before and after their transformations.

Explanatory Writing Prompt

In this activity, you have changed critical perspectives to look at *Pygmalion* in terms of economic and political issues such as money, power, and social class. How can changing critical perspectives provide new insights on a literary work? Explain how looking through another critical lens changes or enhances a reader’s understanding of the play. Be sure to:

• Introduce a clear thesis and organize ideas to build on one another.
• Explain what new insights, if any, can be gained through Marxist Criticism.
• Cite relevant textual evidence to support your explanation.
• Provide a logical conclusion that summarizes the new insights gained from applying Marxist Criticism.

Independent Reading Checkpoint

Review your independent reading and consider which critical perspective would provide the most interesting analysis of the reading (Reader Response Criticism, Cultural Criticism, Archetypal Criticism, or Marxist Criticism). How might you apply this perspective to transform your reading into a staged play? Record your ideas in your Reader/Writer Notebook.
ASSIGNMENT
Work with a partner to write a script that transforms a scene from *Pygmalion* so that it reflects one of the critical perspectives you have studied. You will also write a reflection analyzing and evaluating your process and product.

Planning and Prewriting: Read and choose a scene to transform.
- Which of the critical perspectives that you have encountered so far (Reader Response Criticism, Cultural Criticism, Archetypal Criticism, or Marxist Criticism) is the best choice for this assignment?
- What scene from *Pygmalion* gives the best opportunities to convey in a clear and interesting way the perspective that you have chosen?
- What elements of the play will you change to emphasize the critical perspective, and how will it affect that scene?
- What parts of using a critical lens to create a script are especially challenging?

Drafting: Write a draft of your script.
- How will you compose your writing so that your script has both dialogue and subtext (two columns, for instance, or subtext in parentheses)?
- How will you use dialogue to show new elements and perspectives that address your chosen critical perspective?
- What can you include to help demonstrate the subtext of the scene (tone of voice, placement of actors, body language, and so on)?
- How can you use your thinking as you plan and draft as part of your reflective analysis and evaluation?
- How can you use technology to enhance your formatting and presentation of the script?

Evaluating and Revising Your Draft: Review and improve your draft.
- How well do the changes that you made to the scene help to highlight your chosen critical perspective?
- How can you work with peers and with the Scoring Guide to help you determine what needs to be added or changed?

Checking and Editing for Publication: Confirm that your final draft is technically accurate.
- How will you review your work to make sure that you have followed the genre conventions of a play script?
- What resources can you use to correct errors in spelling, conventions, grammar, style, and formatting?

Reflection
In this assignment, you were asked to transform a dramatic scene. Drama is a deeply interactive process between the writer and the audience; how effective is drama as a way to present ideas? How can staging choices and acting choices create a new interpretation of a play? How can an audience’s perspective mold and affect an interpretation or understanding of ideas?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scoring Criteria</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Incomplete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ideas</strong></td>
<td>The script • portrays a scene that lends itself well to the chosen critical perspective • transforms the scene, revealing sophisticated understanding of the critical perspective • offers thorough reflection about choices made and insights into how the perspective affects the drama.</td>
<td>The script • portrays an appropriate scene for the chosen critical perspective • transforms the chosen scene in a way that shows comprehension of the critical perspective • includes a reflection that considers choices made and how the perspective affects the drama.</td>
<td>The script • portrays a scene that does not fit well with the chosen critical perspective • changes the scene in ways that do not show an understanding of the critical perspective • includes a reflection that provides limited discussion of choices made and shows a vague grasp of how the perspective affects the drama.</td>
<td>The script • portrays a scene that does not fit well with the chosen critical perspective • does not transform the scene to show an understanding of the critical perspective • does not include a reflection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td>The script • follows an organization that clearly identifies dialogue, stage directions, and subtext • smoothly incorporates new elements into the scene while maintaining an engaging plot • includes an insightful reflection.</td>
<td>The script • follows an organization that separates dialogue from stage directions and subtext • incorporates new elements into the scene while maintaining a coherent plot • includes a reflection.</td>
<td>The script • is not organized to show clear distinctions between dialogue, stage directions, and subtext • includes changes that make the scene difficult to follow • includes a weak reflection.</td>
<td>The script • is disorganized and does not show clear distinctions between dialogue, stage directions, and subtext • is missing elements that make the scene difficult to follow • includes no reflection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of Language</strong></td>
<td>The script • crafts dialogue that maintains consistent character voice from the original text • incorporates creative techniques (such as inverted word order or repetition) to enhance meaning and add interest • demonstrates strong control and mastery of standard writing conventions.</td>
<td>The script • includes dialogue that largely maintains character voice from the original text • incorporates some techniques (such as inverted word order or repetition) to add interest • demonstrates control of writing conventions but may contain minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.</td>
<td>The script • includes dialogue that varies from the original text • does not successfully incorporate techniques to add interest; techniques used may interfere with meaning • contains frequent errors in standard writing conventions that interfere with meaning.</td>
<td>The script • includes dialogue that does not match the text or fit the scene • does not use techniques to add interest • contains numerous errors in standard writing conventions that interfere with meaning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Learning Targets
- Develop and apply an understanding of key concepts and vocabulary for the study of Feminist Criticism.
- Identify and analyze the knowledge and skills needed to complete Embedded Assessment 2 successfully.

Making Connections
You have considered archetypes, power struggles, and wealth while examining and transforming a text and have considered the social and cultural implications of presenting a text from a particular perspective. In the second part of this unit, you will expand your toolbox of critical theories by adding a new critical perspective: Feminist Criticism. In addition, you will encounter examples of how that theory is applied to a familiar story and a film, as models for applying that perspective to another work of literary merit.

Essential Questions
Review the Essential Questions for this unit. How would you answer them now?

Developing Vocabulary
Review the vocabulary you have studied so far in this unit. Which terms do you know thoroughly? Which need additional study? How can you develop your understanding of new terms independently?

Unpacking Embedded Assessment 2
Closely read the assignment for Embedded Assessment 2: Applying a Critical Perspective.

Your assignment is to write an analytical essay applying the Feminist Critical Perspective to a short story. You have two stories to read and choose from, “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin and “The Chaser” by John Collier. (Both stories are included on the following pages.)

What knowledge must you have (what do you need to know) to succeed on Embedded Assessment 2? What skills must you have (what do you need to do) to succeed on Embedded Assessment 2?
ACTIVITY 2.15 continued

Feminist Criticism

The perspective that you will study in this part of the unit is Feminist Criticism. Feminist interpretation focuses on relationships between genders. It examines the patterns of thought, behavior, values, enfranchisement, and power in relations between and within the sexes. For example, a feminist reading of *Pygmalion* may take into account the idea of power relationships between the men and women of the play. Following are some common assumptions in Feminist Criticism:

- A pervasively patriarchal society conveys the notion of male dominance through the images of women in its texts.
- Many literary texts lack complex female figures and deem the female reader as an outsider, or require her to assume male values in terms of perception, feelings, and actions.
- Issues of gender and sexuality are central to artistic expression.
- Fictional portrayals of female characters often reflect and reinforce stereotypical social and political attitudes toward women.
- Texts authored by women may have different viewpoints from those in texts authored by men.

You have worked with film as text before and know that filmmakers use cinematic elements to create certain effects and manipulate viewers’ perspectives. These elements should be taken into consideration as you apply critical theory to the study of a film production. Viewing a film through the lens of Marxist or Archetypal or Feminist Critical theory can significantly alter your understanding and appreciation of a film.

Watch the film segment that your teacher shows. As you watch the film, pay particular attention to those textual details that help you understand the film through a Feminist lens. Write the title of the film below.

**Film Title:** _____________________________________

**First Viewing**

1. Compose a quickwrite that describes your initial response to the female character or characters. Conclude your response by listing several adjectives that describe them.

**Second Viewing**

Use the following questions to guide your viewing:

2. What is the relationship between the characters? Cite specific evidence.

3. What does the staging of the characters (where they are physically located, how they move) in this scene suggest to you?

4. What is the power relationship between the males and females? Who appears powerful? Who is in control?

5. What stereotypical social or political attitudes are evident in the clip?

**ACADEMIC VOCABULARY**

**Enfranchisement** means having the rights of citizenship, such as the right to vote.

A **patriarchal society** is one in which the male is head of the household and holds authority over women and children.

**Word Connections**

**Feminist** is an adjective derived from the Latin word *femina*, meaning “woman.” Other words derived from *femina* include *feminine*, *femininely*, *feminineness*, *femininity*, and *female*.

**INDEPENDENT READING LINK**

**Read and Research**

Select a text for independent reading that lends itself to analysis from a feminist perspective. Authors for consideration might include Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Barbara Kingsolver, John Updike, Margaret Atwood, Alice Walker, and Toni Morrison, among others. Once you have selected a text, research the author’s background and write a short reflection about how the author’s circumstances may influence his or her writing.

**My Notes**
Learning Targets

• Closely read and analyze a work of Feminist Criticism.
• Trace a series of ideas in a complex text in order to explain how an author develops an argument.

Preview

In this activity, you will read an example of literary criticism and analyze the author’s critical interpretations of a famous fairy tale. Then you will write an analysis of how the author develops an argument over the course of the text.

Setting a Purpose for Reading

• As you read the essay, mark paragraphs that connect to Feminist Criticism with an “F” and paragraphs that connect to Marxist Criticism with an “M.”
• Put a star next to allusions in the text.
• Circle unknown words and phrases. Try to determine the meaning of the words by using context clues, word parts, or a dictionary.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR


Literary Criticism

from *Kiss Sleeping Beauty Goodbye*

by Madonna Kolbenschlag

Cinderella, the best-known and probably best-liked fairy tale, is above all a success story. The rags-to-riches theme perhaps explains its equal popularity among boys as well as girls. It is a very old fairy tale having at least 345 documented variants and numerous unrecorded versions. The iconic focus of the tale on the lost slipper and Cinderella’s “perfect fit” suggest that the story may have originated in the Orient where the erotic significance of tiny feet has been a popular myth since ancient times.
2 The basic motifs of the story are well-known: an ill-treated heroine, who is forced to live by the hearth; the twig she plants on her mother's grave that blossoms into a magic tree; the tasks demanded of the heroine; the magic animals that help her perform the tasks and provide her costume for the ball; the meeting at the ball; the heroine's flight from the ball; the lost slipper; the shoe test; the sisters' mutilation of their feet; the discovery of the true bride and the happy marriage. The variants retain the basic motifs; while differing considerably in detail, they range more widely in their origins than any other fairy tale: Asiatic, Celtic, European, Middle-Eastern and American Indian versions numbered among them.

3 The Horatio Alger quality of the story helps to explain its special popularity in mercantile and capitalistic societies. As a parable of social mobility it was seized upon by the writers of the new “literature of aspiration” in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as a basic plot for a new kind of private fantasy—the novel. Our literary world has not been the same since Pamela and all her orphaned, governess sisters. Most Anglo-American novels, early and late, are written in the shadow of Pamela and the Cinderella myth. Even Franklin's Autobiography, the seminal work in the success genre, owes much to the myth. The primary “moral” of the fairy tale—that good fortune can be merited—is the very essence of the Protestant Ethic.

4 At the personal and psychological level, Cinderella evokes intense identification. It is a tale of sibling rivalry (and subliminally, of sex-role stereotyping)—a moral fable about socialization. Very few themes could be closer to the inner experience of the child, an emerging self enmeshed in a family network. …

5 The personality of the heroine is one that, above all, accepts abasement as a prelude to and precondition of affiliation. That abasement is characteristically expressed by Cinderella's servitude to menial tasks, work that diminishes her. This willing acceptance of a condition of worthlessness and her expectation of rescue (as reward for her virtuous suffering) is a recognizable paradigm of traditional feminine socialization. Cinderella is deliberately and systematically excluded from meaningful achievements. Her stepmother assigns her to meaningless tasks; her father fails her as a helpful mentor. Her sisters, inferior in quality of soul, are preferred before her. …

6 Like most fairy tales, Cinderella dramatizes the passage to maturity. Her sojourn among the ashes is a period of grieving, a transition to a new self. On the explicit level of the story, Cinderella is literally grieving for her dead mother. Grimm's version of the tale preserves the sense of process, of growth that is symbolized in the narrative. Instead of a fairy godmother—deus ex machina—Cinderella receives a branch of hazel bush from her father. She plants the twig over her mother's grave and cultivates it with her prayers and tears. This is her contact with her past, her roots, her essential self. Before one can be transformed one must grieve for the lost as well as the possible selves, as yet unfilled—Kierkegaard's existential anguish. …

7 The Perrault version places great emphasis on the “midnight” prohibition given to Cinderella. The traditional connotation would, of course, associate it with the paternal mandate of obedience, and a threat: if the heroine does not return to domesticity and docility at regular intervals she may lose her “virtue” and no longer merit her expected one. Like the old conduct manuals for ladies, the moral of the tale warns against feminine excursions as well as ambition. Too much time spent “abroad” may result in indiscreet sex or unseemly hubris, or both. …

1 deus ex machina: literally “god from the machine;” comes from the Greek and Roman practice of introducing a god into a play suddenly to solve a problem that couldn't be solved otherwise
The slipper, the central icon in the story, is a symbol of sexual bondage and imprisonment in a stereotype. Historically, the virulence of its significance is born out in the twisted horrors of Chinese foot binding practices. On another level, the slipper is a symbol of power—with all of its accompanying restrictions and demands for conformity. When the Prince offers Cinderella the lost slipper (originally a gift of the magic bird), he makes his kingdom hers.

We know little of Cinderella’s subsequent role. In Grimm’s version she is revenged by the birds which pluck out the eyes of the envious sisters. But Perrault’s version celebrates Cinderella’s kindness and forgiveness. Her sisters come to live in the palace and marry two worthy lords. In the Norse variant of the tale, Aslaug, the heroine, marries a Viking hero, bears several sons, and wields a good deal of power in Teutonic style. (She is the daughter of Sigurd and Brynhild.) But in most tales Cinderella disappears into the vague region known as the “happily ever after.” She changes her name, no doubt, and—like so many women—is never heard of again.

Second Read
• Reread the article to answer these text-dependent questions.
• Write any additional questions you have about the text in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

1. Key Ideas and Details: What in the Cinderella story suggests its origin, according to the author? Why is her theory uncertain?

2. Key Ideas and Details: What details from the fairy tale support the author’s claim that the Cinderella story fits the Protestant Ethic?

3. Craft and Structure: Reread paragraph 5. What details from the paragraph and the fairy tale explain what the author means by the “paradigm of traditional feminine socialization”?

virulence: deadly and easily spreading quality
conformity: compliance with social norms

Cognates
The English word mandate functions both as a noun meaning “a formal command” and a verb meaning “to require or direct.” The Spanish noun mandato and verb mandar are cognates of mandate—words that sound similar and have the same or similar meanings in both languages.

Roots and Affixes
Virtue comes from the Anglo-French vertu, meaning “moral strength or excellence.” Other related words include virtuoso and virtuosity, which both refer to technical skill as a sign of worth.

Teutonic: referring either to the Teutons, an ancient northern European tribe, or more generally to Germany, Germans, or the German language
4. **Key Ideas and Details:** What is the “midnight prohibition” in the fairy tale? How does it reinforce the “paradigm of traditional feminine socialization”?

5. **Key Ideas and Details:** What details in paragraph 8 show the slipper as a symbol of submission? How is it described as a symbol of power?

6. **Key Ideas and Details:** What reasons does the author give throughout the article for the popularity of the Cinderella tale?

**Working from the Text**

7. In paragraph 3, the author makes four allusions: three to works of literature (Horatio Alger, Pamela, Franklin’s Autobiography) and one to a religious ideal (Protestant Ethic). Research each allusion. What is her purpose in uniting these seemingly disparate references in one paragraph?

8. Reread the last two sentences of paragraph 9. Why is this comment a statement of Feminist Criticism? Look back at your annotations for Feminist and Marxist Criticism throughout the text. With a discussion group, articulate why each statement you marked connects to either Feminist or Marxist Criticism.

9. With your group, use SOAPSTone or another strategy to analyze the author’s purpose in this text. How does she develop her ideas over the course of the text for her specific purpose?
Check Your Understanding
Think about Kolbenschlag’s essay, “Cinderalla, the Legend.” What is Kolbenschlag's thesis? Write a sentence stating her thesis in your own words.

Language and Writer’s Craft: Punctuating Lists
Notice that the first sentence in the second paragraph of Kolbenschlag’s essay has a list introduced by a colon. When creating a list followed by a colon, you typically use commas to separate items. However, as seen in this list, it is necessary to separate items with a semicolon if the items already have commas within them.

For example, the first item in the list has a comma within it, which separates the descriptive clause (“who is forced to live by the hearth”) from the word it modifies (“an ill-treated heroine”). In order to make the rest of the list clear, semicolons separate all the following items in the list.

PRACTICE Write a sentence that contains a list of other common elements in fairy tales. Be sure to practice proper placement of colons, commas, and semicolons.

Explain How an Argument Persuades
How does Kolbenschlag develop her arguments in her essay? Write a response in which you explain how Kolbenschlag builds an argument to persuade her audience. As you write, consider how she uses evidence to support claims, reasoning to develop and connect ideas, and persuasive elements to add to her ideas. Be sure to:

• Support your claim by referencing textual evidence of Kolbenschlag’s feminist interpretation and how it strengthens the logic and persuasiveness of her argument.
• Focus on the most relevant features of the passage.
• Explain how the author builds an argument to persuade her audience.

INDEPENDENT READING LINK
Read and Connect
After discussing Feminist Criticism in class, think about the perspective of your independent reading. Are there female characters functioning within a patriarchy? Explain how your independent reading selection relates to the Feminist Critical perspective. Create a chart that lists evidence from your reading that relates to elements of Feminist Criticism.
Learning Targets

- Compare and contrast similar issues presented in different genres.
- Explain how two texts address feminist critical assumptions.

Preview

In this activity, you will read a folktale through the lens of Feminist Criticism. Then you will compare and integrate ideas from the folktale with ideas presented in another text.

Setting a Purpose for Reading

- As you read the folktale, mark the text using metacognitive markers.
- Circle unknown words and phrases. Try to determine the meaning of the words by using context clues, word parts, or a dictionary.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A folklorist, anthropologist, and novelist, Zora Neale Hurston (1891–1960) was an important voice of the Harlem Renaissance. She studied anthropology at Barnard University, collecting folktale in the rural South, which were published in *Mules and Men* (1935) and *Tell My Horse* (1938), a fictional work that included her field studies of voodoo in Haiti. Hurston also completed four novels, of which the best known is *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937). During her career, Hurston also taught at North Carolina College for Negroes and worked at the Library of Congress.

Folktale

**Why Women Always Take Advantage of Men**

*from Mules and Men*

*by Zora Neale Hurston*

**Chunk 1**

1. “Don’t you know you can’t git de best of no woman in de talkin’ game? Her tongue is all de weapon a woman got,” George Thomas chided Gene. “She could have had mo’ sense, but she told God no, she’d ruther take it out in hips. So God give her her ruthers. She got plenty hips, plenty mouf and no brains.”

2. “Oh, yes, womens is got sense too,” Mathilda Moseley jumped in. “But they got too much sense to go ‘round braggin’ about it like y’all do. De lady people always got de advantage of mens because God fixed it dat way.”
“Whut ole black advantage is y’all got?” B. Moseley asked indignantly. “We got all de strength and all de law and all de money and you can’t git a thing but whut we jes’ take pity on you and give you.”

“And dat’s jus’ de point,” said Mathilda triumphantly. “You do give it to us, but how come you do it?” And without waiting for an answer Mathilda began to tell why women always take advantage of men.

Chunk 2

You see in de very first days, God made a man and a woman and put ’em in a house together to live. ’Way back in them days de woman was just as strong as de man and both of ’em did de same things. They useter get to fussin’ ’bout who gointer do this and that sometime they’d fight, but they was even balanced and neither one could whip de other one.

One day de man said to hisself, “B’lieve Ah’m gointer go see God and ast Him for a li’l mo’ strength so Ah kin whip dis ‘oman and make her mind. Ah’m tired of de way things is.” So he went on up to God.

“Good mawnin’, Ole Father.”

“Howdy man. Whut you doin’ ’round my throne so soon dis mawnin’?”

“Ah’m troubled in mind, and nobody can’t ease mah spirit ‘ceptin’ you.”

God said: “Put yo’ plea in de right form and Ah’ll hear and answer.”

“Ole Maker, wid de mawnin’ stars glitterin’ in yo’ shinin’ crown, wid de dust from yo’ footsteps makin’ worlds upon worlds, wid de blazin’ bird we call de sun flyin’ out o’ yo’ right hand in de mawnin’ and consumin’ all day de flesh and blood of stump-black darkness, and comes flyin’ home every evenin’ to rest on yo’ left hand, and never once in all yo’ eternal years, mistood de left hand for de right, Ah ast you please to give me mo’ strength than dat woman you give me, so Ah kin make her mind. Ah know you don’t want to be always comin’ down way past de moon and stars to be straightenin’ her out and its got to be done. So give me a li’l mo’ strength, Ole Maker and Ah’ll do it.”

“All right, Man, you got mo’ strength than woman.”

Chunk 3

So de man run all de way down de stairs from Heben till he got home. He was so anxious to try his strength on de woman dat he couldn’t take his time. Soon’s he got in de house he hollered “Woman! Here’s yo’ boss. God done tole me to handle you whichever way Ah please. Ah’m yo’ boss.”

De woman flew to fightin’ im right off. She fought ’im frightenin’ but he beat her. She got her wind and tried ’im agin but he whipped her agin. She got herself together and made de third try on him vigorous but he beat her every time. He was so proud he could whip ’er at last, dat he just crowed over her and made her do a lot of things she didn’t like. He told her, “Long as you obey me, Ah’ll be good to yuh, but every time yuh rear up Ah’m gointer put plenty wood on yo’ back and plenty water in yo’ eyes.”

De woman was so mad she went straight up to Heben and stood befo’ de Lawd. She didn’t waste no words. She said, “Lawd, Ah come befo’ you mighty mad t’day. Ah want back my strength and power Ah useter have.”

“Woman, you got de same power you had since de beginnin’.”

“Why is it then, dat de man kin beat me now and he useter couldn’t do it?”

“He got mo’ strength than he useter have. He come and ast me for it and Ah give it to ’im. Ah gives to them that ast, and you ain’t never ast me for no mo’ power.”
“Please suh, God, Ah’m astin’ you for it now. Jus’ gimme de same as you give him.”

God shook his head. “It’s too late now, woman. Whut Ah give, Ah never take back. Ah give him mo’ strength than you and no matter how much Ah give you, he’ll have mo’.”

Chunk 4

De woman was so mad she wheeled around and went on off. She went straight to de devil and told him what had happened.

He said, “Don’t be dis-incouraged, woman. You listen to me and you’ll come out mo’ than conqueror. Take dem frowns out yo’ face and turn round and go right on back to Heben and ast God to give you dat bunch of keys hangin’ by de mantel-piece. Then you bring ’em to me and Ah’ll show you what to do wid ’em.”

So de woman climbed back up to Heben agin. She was mighty tired but she was more out-done that she was tired so she climbed all night long and got back up to Heben agin. When she got befo’ de throne, butter wouldn’t melt in her mouf.

“O Lawd and Master of de rainbow, Ah know yo’ power. You never make two mountains without you put a valley in between. Ah know you kin hit a straight lick wid a crooked stick.”

“Ast for whut you want, woman.”

“God, gimme dat bunch of keys hangin’ by yo’ mantel-piece.”

“Take ’em.”

So de woman took de keys and hurried on back to de devil wid ’em. There was three keys on de bunch. Devil say, “See dese three keys? They got mo’ power in ’em than all de strength de man kin ever git if you handle ’em right. Now dis first big key is to de do’ of de kitchen and you know a man always favors his stomach. Dis second one is de key to de bedroom and he don’t like to be shut out from dat neither and dis last key is de key to de cradle and he don’t want to be cut oﬀ from his generations at all. So now you take dese keys and go lock up everything and wait till he come to you. Then don’t you unlock nothin’ until he use his strength for yo’ beneﬁt and yo’ desires.”

De woman thanked ’im and tole ’im, “If it wasn’t for you, Lawd knows whut us po’ women folks would do.”

She started oﬀ but de devil halted her. “Jus’ one mo’ thing: don’t go home braggin’ ’bout yo’ keys. Jus’ lock up everything and say nothin’ until you git asked. And then don’t talk too much.”

Chunk 5

De woman went on home and did like de devil tole her. When de man come home from work she was settin’ on de porch singin’ some song ’bout “Peck on de wood make de bed go good.”

When de man found de three doors fastened what useter stand wide open he swelled up like pine lumber a foot er a rain. First thing he tried to break in caus’ he figgered his strength would overcome all obstacles.

When he saw he couldn’t do it, he ast de woman, “Who locked dis do’?”

She tole ’im, “Me.”

“Where did you git de key from?”

“God give it to me.”

**WORD CONNECTIONS**

**Roots and Affixes**

*Dis-incouraged* is not a word you’ll find in the dictionary, but you can still decode it using roots and affixes. The Latin root *cur* means “heart” and is the base of the word *courage*. The prefix *en-* (here written *in-*) means “to make” or “to cause,” and the prefix *dis-* means “to deprive.” Hurston intentionally adds these two conflicting prefixes to create a word with complex meaning.
He run up to God and said, “God, woman got me locked 'way from my vittles, my bed and my generations, and she say you give her the keys.”

God said, “I did, Man, Ah give her de keys, but de devil showed her how to use 'em!”

“Well, Ole Maker, please gimme some keys jus' lak 'em so she can't git de full control.”

“No, Man, what Ah give Ah give. Woman got de key.”

“How kin Ah know 'bout my generations?”

“Ast de woman.”

So de man come on back and submitted hiself to de woman and she opened de doors.

He wasn't satisfied but he had to give in. Way after while he said to de woman, “Le's us divide up. Ah'll give you half of my strength if you lemme hold de keys in my hands.”

De woman thought dat over so de devil popped and tol her, “Tell 'im, naw. Let 'im keep his strength and you keep yo’ keys.”

So de woman wouldn't trade wid 'im and de man had to mortgage his strength to her to live. And dat's why de man makes and de woman takes.

You men is still braggin’ 'bout yo' strength and de women is sittin’ on de keys and lettin' you blow off till she git ready to put de bridle on you.

B. Moseley looked over at Mathilda and said, “You just like a hen in de barnyard. You cackle so much you give de rooster de blues.”

Mathilda looked over at him archly and quoted:

Stepped on a pin, de pin bent.

And dat's de way de story went.

**Second Read**

- Reread the story to answer these text-dependent questions.
- Write any additional questions you have about the text in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

1. **Key Ideas and Details:** What words and phrases do the men use in Chunk 1 to describe men’s and women’s advantages?

2. **Craft and Structure:** How does using the word *triumphantly* to describe Mathilda’s speech at the end of Chunk 1 create surprise and set up the folktale?
3. **Key Ideas and Details:** What is the cause of the conflict between the man and the woman in the folktale? What does this imply about men and women?

4. **Key Ideas and Details:** Why does the man tell God he needs more strength than the woman at the end of Chunk 2? What patriarchal attitude does his request reflect?

5. **Craft and Structure:** In Chunk 4, how does the Devil’s explanation of the keys add irony to the folktale?

6. **Key Ideas and Details:** In Chunk 5, God says, “I did, Man, Ah give her de keys, but de devil showed her how to use ‘em!” What view of women’s power can be inferred from this statement?

7. **Craft and Structure:** How does Hurston’s choice to present the folktale as part of a conversation between men and a woman change the effect of the story?

8. **Key Ideas and Details:** What themes are expressed in the last six paragraphs of the story? How do they interact to create a view of the power balance between men and women?
Working from the Text

9. Think about the gender issues raised by the authors of the essay “Cinderella, the Legend” and the folktale “Why Women Always Take Advantage of Men.” Use a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the issues raised by each author and those shared by both. Share the information in your diagram with the rest of your group in a discussion.
10. Consider some of the common assumptions of Feminist Criticism. Based on your reading and discussion of “Cinderella, the Legend” and “Why Women Always Take Advantage of Men,” decide whether Kolbenschlag and Hurston would tend to agree or disagree with the assumptions below. Use evidence from the texts to support your views. Then decide whether you agree or disagree with the same statements, and record your thinking in the last column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Assumptions in the Use of a Feminist Critical Perspective</th>
<th>Kolbenschlag</th>
<th>Hurston</th>
<th>You</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Images of women support a patriarchal society.</td>
<td>Agree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The female reader is an outsider who must assume male values.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender issues are central.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fictional portrayals of women are stereotypical.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Texts authored by women may have different viewpoints from those authored by men.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Check Your Understanding**

Review the points that your group has made, comparing and contrasting the readings. Write a brief summary of the significant points of your group’s discussion.

**Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text**

Write a compare/contrast analysis to explain an assumption of Feminist Criticism from the graphic organizer you completed in this activity. Compare and contrast how the two texts (Kolbenschlag’s and Hurston’s) treat this assumption. Be sure to:

- Begin with a clear thesis that states the overall similarities and differences in how each author addresses the assumption.
- Include direct quotations and specific examples from both texts to support your statements.
- Introduce and punctuate all quotations correctly, using varied syntax.
- Use a coherent organizational structure and employ transitions effectively to highlight similarities and differences.
Learning Targets

- Create a new interpretation of a story by applying a critical lens.
- Develop claims and support them with textual evidence.

Feminist Criticism

1. Think about the description of Feminist Criticism in Activity 2.15 and in the Academic Vocabulary definition. Then answer the following questions about the general assumptions of this critical perspective.
   - If a matriarchal society is the opposite of a patriarchal society, what is the basis of the difference?
   - What is one assumption Feminist Criticism makes about patriarchal societies?
   - What point of view does Feminist Criticism take toward the treatment of female characters in literary texts?
   - How can a literary character both reflect and reinforce stereotypes?
   - What assumption does Feminist Criticism make about texts authored by men versus those authored by women?

2. Think about the phrase “the tree of life.” It is an archetype. What do you know about this phrase and its meaning?

3. You will read a picture book that allows you to analyze the phrase “the tree of life” from the perspective of Feminist Criticism. A cornerstone of Feminist Criticism is the examination of the portrayal of gender roles and relationships between men and women. As your teacher reads aloud Shel Silverstein’s *The Giving Tree*, think about the answers to these analytical questions:
   - How are women presented in the text? How are men presented in the text?
   - How is the relationship between men and women presented?
   - To what extent does the portrayal of men and women support a patriarchal view of the world?

My Notes

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4. Use the following graphic organizer to analyze the story. Write a passage in the left column, and, using the questions above, write your analysis in the right column. Your teacher will model the completion of the first few passages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage</th>
<th>Answers to Questions and Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Check Your Understanding

Based on your analysis and discussion of *The Giving Tree*, what is one new understanding that emerges when reading the story from a feminist perspective? How could you recast *The Giving Tree* as a feminist story?

**Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text**

Consider the final line of the story: “And the tree was happy.” Write an explanation of why the tree would or would not be happy. How could a feminist reading of this story give the reader a new or different understanding? Consider the author’s portrayal of men and women in the text and the relationship between them as you incorporate principles of Feminist Criticism in your explanation. Be sure to:

- Begin with a clear thesis statement that presents an explanation for the tree’s happiness or lack thereof.
- Include relevant quotations and examples from the text to support your explanation and reasoning.
- Use a coherent organizational structure and employ transitions effectively to make connections between ideas and reasons.
- Provide a conclusion that supports your explanation.
Learning Targets
- Collaborate to develop knowledge of film terminology.
- Connect film techniques to intended effects.

Film Terminology
In this part of the unit, you will be studying a film directed by Alfred Hitchcock. An understanding of and ability to accurately use film terms is essential for the type of close analysis you will be doing.

1. Scan the list of film terms and mark each term using the QHT strategy.

2. Work in small groups to research the meanings of your assigned film terms. Paraphrase the definitions you find, and then think of a way to demonstrate the meanings visually. You might sketch a visual example or act out a scene using different angles, lighting, or camera movements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shots</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing Shot (ES)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Shot (LS)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium Shot (MS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close-Up (CU)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Close-Up (ECU)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Shot</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mise en Scène</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LEARNING STRATEGIES:
QHT, Summarizing, Paraphrasing, Brainstorming
### Camera Angles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angle</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eye Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Angle</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Angle</td>
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</table>

### Camera Movements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolly/Tracking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boom/Crane</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Lighting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High Key</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Key</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottom Lighting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side Lighting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Lighting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Lighting</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Join another group and take turns sharing your paraphrased definitions. Share the visual examples you created.

**Check Your Understanding**

Think about a frightening scene in which a villain sneaks up behind a victim. Using accurate film terminology, describe how a director might use film techniques to capture such a scene.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Editing Techniques</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cut</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dissolve</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wipe</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flashback</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shot-Reverse-Shot</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Cutting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Point of View</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Eye-Line-Match</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fade</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diegetic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-diegetic</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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My Notes

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Learning Targets
- Infer character traits by using context clues.
- Synthesize multiple images into a cohesive narrative.

The Opening Montage
1. In this activity, you will view a portion of Alfred Hitchcock’s Rear Window and apply the film terms you have learned. The first segment you will view is the opening montage, or sequence of images. As you view the segment, note the images you see. What story do these images tell?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Analysis and Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Apartment House Segment

2. This segment shows the apartment houses outside Jeff’s window as the occupants are waking up. In the graphic organizer below, record information you can observe or infer about each of the following characters:

Dancer  Sculptor
Songwriter  Miss Lonelyheart
Man and his Wife  Newlyweds
Couple who sleep on the fire escape

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What do you know about each character?</th>
<th>How do you know (textual evidence)?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Identify the film techniques used in the scenes you have viewed, as well as the effects of those techniques.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scene</th>
<th>Film Technique</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening montage/apartment shots</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff watching the newlyweds entering their apartment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa introducing herself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Lonelyheart’s imaginary date</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument between Thorwald and wife</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argument between Jeff and Lisa</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff spying on Thorwald</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Review the information that you have entered in this activity’s graphic organizers to answer the following questions:

- How does a viewer of film create a narrative based on a series of pictures? What must a viewer do in order to make meaning from visual text?

- Select three characters or groups of characters. Explain what you know about these characters and what film techniques help you understand them.

- Hitchcock has made meaning in two scenes through the film technique of diagetic sound. Identify these two scenes and explain what effects Hitchcock creates with this technique.

**Check Your Understanding**

In a quickwrite, describe how Hitchcock uses film techniques in one of the segments you viewed. How does his use of film techniques help convey details about the scene’s setting, characters, and subtext?
Learning Targets
- Apply the assumptions of a critical perspective to a text.
- Generate a critique that adopts a critical perspective.

Film Techniques
1. As you watch the film, take notes about the following elements.

What film techniques underscore/portray the dominant patriarchal culture?

Film Techniques
- Shots/Framing/Camera Angles/Camera Movements/Sound/Editing/Lighting

How are women presented?
How are men presented?
How is their relationship presented?

Cinematic Elements
- Dialogue/Vocal Delivery/Props/Sets/Costumes/Makeup

2. Review the assumptions of Feminist Criticism. Think about how a patriarchal society conveys the notion of male dominance through the images of women. In small groups, discuss to what extent the portrayal of women in Rear Window conveys the notion of male dominance in a patriarchal society. Be sure to:
- Base your discussion on the notion of male dominance.
- Support your ideas with evidence from the film.
- Avoid merely summarizing a scene from the film.

My Notes

Rear Window: Screening Day 1
Learning Targets

• Effectively use evidence to explain ideas in a written analysis of a film.
• Analyze the relationships between men and women as portrayed in film.

Viewing the Film

1. As you watch the second part of *Rear Window*, take notes on the film techniques and cinematic elements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What film techniques underscore/portray the dominant patriarchal culture?</th>
<th>Film Techniques</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shots/Framing/Camera Angles/Camera Movements/Sound/Editing/Lighting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How are women presented?</th>
<th>Cinematic Elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How are men presented?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How is their relationship presented?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dialogue/Vocal Delivery/Props/Sets/Costumes/Makeup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEARNING STRATEGIES:**
Note-taking, Graphic Organizer, Think-Pair-Share, Peer Editing, Discussion Groups
2. Respond to the following questions to check your understanding of this segment. Provide text-based support for your answers.

- Who has the power in the relationship between Jeff and Lisa?

- How is this power established?

- All of these characters in this scene have strong opinions about what is happening. What influences each character to believe as he or she does?

- Respond to the following quotation from this section. Who says it? What does it mean? “That feminine intuition stuff sells magazines, but in real life it’s still a fairy tale.”

Check Your Understanding

Identify one of the common assumptions of Feminist Criticism and cite a few specific examples from *Rear Window* that reflect this common assumption.

Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text

Write an essay to explain how an assumption of Feminist Criticism applies to the second part of *Rear Window*. Think about how literary texts often lack complex female figures. They may deem the female reader to be an outsider or require her to assume male values in terms of perception, feelings, and actions. How are these or other assumptions evident in the film? Be sure to:

- Begin with a clear thesis that introduces the assumption and how it applies to the film.
- Cite significant and relevant evidence and examples to explain how and why women in the film adopt male values.
- Provide a conclusion that logically follows from the content of the essay.
## Learning Targets

- Generate open-ended questions based on the analysis of a film text.
- Evaluate how gender roles in a text support the assumptions of a critical perspective.

1. As you watch the third part of *Rear Window*, take notes relating to the following elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Film Techniques</th>
<th>Cinematic Elements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shots/Framing/Camera Angles</td>
<td>Dialogue/Vocal Delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camera Movements/Sound/Editing/</td>
<td>Props/Sets/Costumes/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>Makeup</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What film techniques underscore/portray the dominant patriarchal culture?**

**How are women presented?**

**How are men presented?**

**How is their relationship presented?**

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2. After viewing this segment of film, review your notes from the graphic organizer. Write three questions at Levels 2 and 3. Within your discussion groups, each person should pose a question, and the others will take turns offering textual evidence to support responses to the questions.

Level 2 Questions:

Level 3 Questions:

Check Your Understanding

In what ways do the scenes you viewed from Rear Window connect to the assumptions of Feminist Criticism? How could you reinterpreted one of the scenes so that it challenges an assumption of Feminist Criticism?

Writing to Sources: Argument

One assumption of Feminist Criticism is that fictional portrayals of female characters often reflect and reinforce stereotypical social and political attitudes toward women. Think about the female characters in this portion of Rear Window. In what ways does their portrayal support this assumption of Feminist Criticism? Write an argumentative essay on this portion of the film. Be sure to:

• Begin with a clear statement that presents your claim about the portrayal of female characters in the film.
• Support your claim with multiple pieces of textual evidence from the film.
• Anticipate and address opposing viewpoints.
• Provide a conclusion that supports your claim.
Learning Targets

• Analyze the use of subplots through a critical perspective.
• Write a clear analysis of a film text through multiple critical perspectives.

Analyzing Subplot and Characters

In *Rear Window*, Hitchcock skillfully draws the viewers into Jeff’s world, a world that Jeff sees through the lens of his camera. Each apartment Jeff watches becomes, in a way, its own movie or story. What if we portrayed those “movies” with a Feminist lens on the camera?

1. With a small group, choose three subplots you would like to explore in more detail. For each subplot, consider the focus questions below. For example, what would a Feminist Critical perspective say about Miss Lonelyheart and her problems? Is she sad because she does not have a man? How is she presented with a man present versus when she is alone? To what extent does this portrayal present a patriarchal view of her? Analyze each subplot using a Feminist perspective.

Feminist Critique

How are women presented? How are men presented?
What is the relationship between men and women? Are women’s opinions ignored? Who has the power?
To what extent does the portrayal of men and women support a patriarchal (or male-centered) view of the world?

2. When you complete your analysis, work together as a group to perform the following tasks:
• On a piece of paper or poster board, sketch a diagram of three of the windows of the apartments Jeff watches.
• Next, cut out slips of paper the same size as the windows you have drawn. These will represent the shades that Jeff’s neighbors (with the exception of the newlyweds) never seem to close. Tape or glue the “shades” only to the top of the windows.
• On the outside of each shade, write the name(s) and/or description of the person or people who live there: the dancer, the sculptor, the composer, Miss Lonelyheart, Mr. and Mrs. Thorwald, the newlyweds, the couple with the little dog, and so on.
• Underneath the shade, so that you can read it if you lift the flap, write a brief description and analysis of the story of that apartment, using the critical perspective of your preceding analysis.
• Share your poster as your teacher directs, and view those created by your classmates. How are they similar to or different from your own?
Analyzing the Main Plot and Character

3. As intriguing as these subplots may be, they are still just that—subplots. Now turn the camera inward, so that you are viewing Jeff’s own apartment. As Stella says, “What people ought to do is get outside their own house and look in for a change.” Use the questions on the previous page to briefly discuss the main plot from a feminist perspective.

Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text

Write a summary of *Rear Window* that explains the meaning of the story from two of the critical perspectives you have studied so far. Review the assumptions of the critical perspectives presented in this unit and those presented in Unit 1. Refer to the questions related to the Feminist assumptions on the previous page and questions related to the Archetypal and Marxist assumptions below. Be sure to:

- Include a thoughtful thesis that presents your primary interpretation of the meaning of the story.
- Provide a coherent analysis using the two perspectives and explain your understanding of each perspective.
- Cite specific, relevant textual evidence to support your analysis.

Archetypal Critique

- Do you identify universal symbols (images, characters, motifs, and patterns) that are similar across widely diverse cultures?
- Are these archetypes complete? Why or why not?
- How does the archetype advance or complicate your reading?

Marxist Critique

- Are there “haves” and “have-nots”?
- Are there economic inequities that create a power struggle?
- What causes these inequities? Why does the author focus on these inequities?
Learning Targets
• Generate open-ended and closed questions in response to a text.
• Collaboratively discuss how a text relates to a critical perspective.

Preview
In this activity, you will engage in a close reading and discussion of a short story. Then you will write an analysis of the story from a feminist perspective.

Setting a Purpose for Reading
• As you read the story, underline details the narrator reveals about the character Emily and the townspeople’s attitudes toward her.
• Pause after each section to write levels of questions—literal, interpretive, and universal—about the text in the My Notes area.
• Circle unknown words and phrases. Try to determine the meaning of the words by using context clues, word parts, or a dictionary.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
William Faulkner (1897–1962) captured the atmosphere and poignancy of the American South in novels such as *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) and *Absalom, Absalom!* (1936). Raised in Oxford, Mississippi, Faulkner did not finish high school and drifted through several inconsequential jobs. His first novel, *Soldier’s Pay* (1926), drew on his experience as a pilot training in Canada’s British Royal Air Force. In subsequent novels, Faulkner created Yoknapatawpha County, a fictional Mississippi county with recurring characters’ families, landscapes, and histories. Faulkner won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949.

Short Story

*a rose for emily*

by William Faulkner

I

1 When Miss Emily Grierson died, our whole town went to her funeral: the men through a sort of respectful affection for a fallen monument, the women mostly out of curiosity to see the inside of her house, which no one save an old man-servant—a combined gardener and cook—had seen in at least ten years.

GRAMMAR & USAGE
Complex Sentences
A **complex sentence** has one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

Independent Clause: *her eyes, lost in the fatty ridges of her face, looked like two small pieces of coal pressed into a lump of dough*

Dependent Clause: *as they moved from one face to another*

Dependent Clause: *while the visitors stated their errand*

Using a complex sentence structure enables a writer to show complex relationships between and among ideas.

Find one more example of a complex sentence in the story and note how it shows a complex idea.
It was a big, squarish frame house that had once been white, decorated with cupolas and spires and scrolled balconies in the heavily lightsome style of the seventies, set on what had once been our most select street. But garages and cotton gins had encroached and obliterated even the august names of that neighborhood; only Miss Emily's house was left, lifting its stubborn and coquettish decay above the cotton wagons and the gasoline pumps—an eyesore among eyesores. And now Miss Emily had gone to join the representatives of those august names where they lay in the cedar-bemused cemetery among the ranked and anonymous graves of Union and Confederate soldiers who fell at the battle of Jefferson.

Alive, Miss Emily had been a tradition, a duty, and a care; a sort of hereditary obligation upon the town, dating from that day in 1894 when Colonel Sartoris, the mayor—he who fathered the edict that no Negro woman should appear on the streets without an apron—remitted her taxes, the dispensation dating from the death of her father on into perpetuity. Not that Miss Emily would have accepted charity. Colonel Sartoris invented an involved tale to the effect that Miss Emily's father had loaned money to the town, which the town, as a matter of business, preferred this way of repaying. Only a man of Colonel Sartoris's generation and thought could have invented it, and only a woman could have believed it.

When the next generation, with its more modern ideas, became mayors and aldermen, this arrangement created some little dissatisfaction. On the first of the year they mailed her a tax notice. February came, and there was no reply. They wrote her a formal letter, asking her to call at the sheriff's office at her convenience. A week later the mayor wrote her himself, offering to call or to send his car for her, and received in reply a note on paper of an archaic shape, in a thin, flowing calligraphy in faded ink, to the effect that she no longer went out at all. The tax notice was also enclosed, without comment.

They called a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen. A deputation waited upon her, knocked at the door through which no visitor had passed since she ceased giving china-painting lessons eight or ten years earlier. They were admitted by the old Negro into a dim hall from which a stairway mounted into still more shadow. It smelled of dust and disuse—a close, dank smell. The Negro led them into the parlor. It was furnished in heavy, leather-covered furniture. When the Negro opened the blinds of one window, they could see that the leather was cracked; and when they sat down, a faint dust rose sluggishly about their thighs, spinning with slow motes in the single sun-ray. On a tarnished gilt easel before the fireplace stood a crayon portrait of Miss Emily's father.

They rose when she entered—a small, fat woman in black, with a thin gold chain descending to her waist and vanishing into her belt, leaning on an ebony cane with a tarnished gold head. Her skeleton was small and spare; perhaps that was why what would have been merely plumpness in another was obesity in her. She looked bloated, like a body long submerged in motionless water, and of that pallid hue. Her eyes, lost in the fatty ridges of her face, looked like two small pieces of coal pressed into a lump of dough as they moved from one face to another while the visitors stated their errand.

She did not ask them to sit. She just stood in the door and listened quietly until the spokesman came to a stumbling halt. Then they could hear the invisible watch ticking at the end of the gold chain.

Her voice was dry and cold. "I have no taxes in Jefferson. Colonel Sartoris explained it to me. Perhaps one of you can gain access to the city records and satisfy yourselves."
"But we have. We are the city authorities, Miss Emily. Didn't you get a notice from
the sheriff, signed by him?"

“I received a paper, yes,” Miss Emily said. “Perhaps he considers himself the
sheriff … I have no taxes in Jefferson.”

“But there is nothing on the books to show that, you see. We must go by the—"

“See Colonel Sartoris. I have no taxes in Jefferson.”

“But, Miss Emily—"

“See Colonel Sartoris.” (Colonel Sartoris had been dead almost ten years.) “I have
no taxes in Jefferson. Tobe!” The Negro appeared. “Show these gentlemen out.”

So she vanquished them, horse and foot, just as she had vanquished their fathers
thirty years before about the smell.

That was two years after her father’s death and a short time after her sweetheart—the
one we believed would marry her—had deserted her. After her father’s death she
went out very little; after her sweetheart went away, people hardly saw her at all. A
few of the ladies had the temerity to call, but were not received, and the only sign of life
about the place was the Negro man—a young man then—going in and out with a
market basket.

“Just as if a man—any man—could keep a kitchen properly,” the ladies said; so they
were not surprised when the smell developed. It was another link between the gross,
teeming world and the high and mighty Griersons.

A neighbor, a woman, complained to the mayor, Judge Stevens, eighty years old.

“Why send her word to stop it,” the woman said. “Isn’t there a law?”

“I’m sure that won’t be necessary,” Judge Stevens said. “It’s probably just a snake or a
rat that nigger of hers killed in the yard. I’ll speak to him about it.”

The next day he received two more complaints, one from a man who came in
diffident deprecation. “We really must do something about it, Judge. I’d be the last one
in the world to bother Miss Emily, but we’ve got to do something.” That night the Board
of Aldermen met—three graybeards and one younger man, a member of the rising
generation.

“It’s simple enough,” he said. “Send her word to have her place cleaned up. Give her
a certain time to do it in, and if she don’t …”

“Dammit, sir,” Judge Stevens said, “will you accuse a lady to her face of smelling
bad?”

So the next night, after midnight, four men crossed Miss Emily’s lawn and slunk
about the house like burglars, sniffing along the base of the brickwork and at the cellar
openings while one of them performed a regular sowing motion with his hand out of
a sack slung from his shoulder. They broke open the cellar door and sprinkled lime
there, and in all the outbuildings. As they recrossed the lawn, a window that had been
dark was lighted and Miss Emily sat in it, the light behind her, and her upright torso
motionless as that of an idol. They crept quietly across the lawn and into the shadow of
the locusts that lined the street. After a week or two the smell went away.
26 That was when people had begun to feel really sorry for her. People in our town, remembering how old lady Wyatt, her great-aunt, had gone completely crazy at last, believed that the Griersons held themselves a little too high for what they really were. None of the young men were quite good enough for Miss Emily and such. We had long thought of them as a tableau. Miss Emily a slender figure in white in the background, her father a sprawled silhouette in the foreground, his back to her and clutching a horsewhip, the two of them framed by the back-flung front door. So when she got to be thirty and was still single, we were not pleased exactly, but vindicated; even with insanity in the family she wouldn't have turned down all of her chances if they had really materialized.

27 When her father died, it got about that the house was all that was left to her; and in a way, people were glad. At last they could pity Miss Emily. Being left alone, and a pauper, she had become humanized. Now she too would know the old thrill and the old despair of a penny more or less.

28 The day after his death all the ladies prepared to call at the house and offer condolence and aid, as is our custom. Miss Emily met them at the door, dressed as usual and with no trace of grief on her face. She told them that her father was not dead. She did that for three days, with the ministers calling on her, and the doctors, trying to persuade her to let them dispose of the body. Just as they were about to resort to law and force, she broke down, and they buried her father quickly.

29 We did not say she was crazy then. We believed she had to do that. We remembered all the young men her father had driven away, and we knew that with nothing left, she would have to cling to that which had robbed her, as people will.

III

30 She was sick for a long time. When we saw her again, her hair was cut short, making her look like a girl, with a vague resemblance to those angels in colored church windows—sort of tragic and serene.

31 The town had just let the contracts for paving the sidewalks, and in the summer after her father’s death they began the work. The construction company came with riggers and mules and machinery, and a foreman named Homer Barron, a Yankee—a big, dark, ready man, with a big voice and eyes lighter than his face. The little boys would follow in groups to hear him cuss the riggers, and the riggers singing in time to the rise and fall of picks. Pretty soon he knew everybody in town. Whenever you heard a lot of laughing anywhere about the square, Homer Barron would be in the center of the group. Presently we began to see him and Miss Emily on Sunday afternoons driving in the yellow-wheeled buggy and the matched team of bays from the livery stable.

32 At first we were glad that Miss Emily would have an interest, because the ladies all said, “Of course a Grierson would not think seriously of a Northerner, a day laborer.” But there were still others, older people, who said that even grief could not cause a real lady to forget noblesse oblige—without calling it noblesse oblige. They just said, “Poor Emily. Her kinsfolk should come to her.” She had some kin in Alabama; but years ago her father had fallen out with them over the estate of old lady Wyatt, the crazy woman, and there was no communication between the two families. They had not even been represented at the funeral.

1 noblesse oblige: a French term referring to the perceived obligations created by noble birth or high position
And as soon as the old people said, “Poor Emily,” the whispering began. “Do you suppose it's really so?” they said to one another. “Of course it is. What else could …” This behind their hands; rustling of craned silk and satin behind jalousies closed upon the sun of Sunday afternoon as the thin, swift clop-clop-clop of the matched team passed: “Poor Emily.”

She carried her head high enough—even when we believed that she was fallen. It was as if she demanded more than ever the recognition of her dignity as the last Grierson; as if it had wanted that touch of earthiness to reaffirm her **imperviousness**. Like when she bought the rat poison, the arsenic. That was over a year after they had begun to say “Poor Emily,” and while the two female cousins were visiting her.

“I want some poison,” she said to the druggist. She was over thirty then, still a slight woman, though thinner than usual, with cold, haughty black eyes in a face the flesh of which was strained across the temples and about the eyesockets as you imagine a lighthouse-keeper’s face ought to look. “I want some poison,” she said.

“Yes, Miss Emily. What kind? For rats and such? I’d recom—”

“I want the best you have. I don’t care what kind.”

The druggist named several. “They’ll kill anything up to an elephant. But what you want is—”

“Arsenic,” Miss Emily said. “Is that a good one?”

“I want arsenic.”

The druggist looked down at her. She looked back at him, erect, her face like a strained flag. “Why, of course,” the druggist said. “If that’s what you want. But the law requires you to tell what you are going to use it for.”

Miss Emily just stared at him, her head tilted back in order to look him eye for eye, until he looked away and went and got the arsenic and wrapped it up. The Negro delivery boy brought her the package; the druggist didn’t come back. When she opened the package at home there was written on the box, under the skull and bones: “For rats.”

**IV**

So the next day we all said, “She will kill herself”; and we said it would be the best thing. When she had first begun to be seen with Homer Barron, we had said, “She will marry him.” Then we said, “She will persuade him yet,” because Homer himself had remarked—he liked men, and it was known that he drank with the younger men in the Elks’ Club—that he was not a marrying man. Later we said, “Poor Emily” behind the jalousies as they passed on Sunday afternoon in the glittering buggy, Miss Emily with her head high and Homer Barron with his hat cocked and a cigar in his teeth, reins and whip in a yellow glove.

Then some of the ladies began to say that it was a disgrace to the town and a bad example to the young people. The men did not want to interfere, but at last the ladies forced the Baptist minister—Miss Emily’s people were Episcopal—to call upon her. He would never divulge what happened during that interview, but he refused to go back again. The next Sunday they again drove about the streets, and the following day the minister’s wife wrote to Miss Emily’s relations in Alabama.

**imperviousness**: inability to be bothered
So she had blood-kin under her roof again and we sat back to watch developments. At first nothing happened. Then we were sure that they were to be married. We learned that Miss Emily had been to the jeweler's and ordered a man’s toilet set in silver, with the letters H. B. on each piece. Two days later we learned that she had bought a complete outfit of men's clothing, including a nightshirt, and we said, “They are married.” We were really glad. We were glad because the two female cousins were even more Grierson than Miss Emily had ever been.

So we were not surprised when Homer Barron—the streets had been finished some time since—was gone. We were a little disappointed that there was not a public blowing-off, but we believed that he had gone on to prepare for Miss Emily's coming, or to give her a chance to get rid of the cousins. (By that time it was a cabal, and we were all Miss Emily’s allies to help circumvent the cousins.) Sure enough, after another week they departed. And, as we had expected all along, within three days Homer Barron was back in town. A neighbor saw the Negro man admit him at the kitchen door at dusk one evening.

And that was the last we saw of Homer Barron. And of Miss Emily for some time. The Negro man went in and out with the market basket, but the front door remained closed. Now and then we would see her at a window for a moment, as the men did that night when they sprinkled the lime, but for almost six months she did not appear on the streets. Then we knew that this was to be expected too; as if that quality of her father which had thwarted her woman's life so many times had been too virulent and too furious to die.

When we next saw Miss Emily, she had grown fat and her hair was turning gray. During the next few years it grew grayer and grayer until it attained an even pepper-and-salt iron-gray, when it ceased turning. Up to the day of her death at seventy-four it was still that vigorous iron-gray, like the hair of an active man.

From that time on her front door remained closed, save for a period of six or seven years, when she was about forty, during which she gave lessons in china-painting. She fitted up a studio in one of the downstairs rooms, where the daughters and granddaughters of Colonel Sartoris’s contemporaries were sent to her with the same regularity and in the same spirit that they were sent to church on Sundays with a twenty-five-cent piece for the collection plate. Meanwhile her taxes had been remitted.

Then the newer generation became the backbone and the spirit of the town, and the painting pupils grew up and fell away and did not send their children to her with boxes of color and tedious brushes and pictures cut from the ladies’ magazines. The front door closed upon the last one and remained closed for good. When the town got free postal delivery, Miss Emily alone refused to let them fasten the metal numbers above her door and attach a mailbox to it. She would not listen to them.

Daily, monthly, yearly we watched the Negro grow grayer and more stooped, going in and out with the market basket. Each December we sent her a tax notice, which would be returned by the post office a week later, unclaimed. Now and then we would see her in one of the downstairs windows—she had evidently shut up the top floor of the house—like the carven torso of an idol in a niche, looking or not looking at us, we could never tell which. Thus she passed from generation to generation—dear, inescapable, impervious, tranquil, and perverse.

And so she died. Fell ill in the house filled with dust and shadows, with only a doddering Negro man to wait on her. We did not even know she was sick; we had long since given up trying to get any information from the Negro.

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**cabal:** small, secret club or group of people working together

**Roots and Affixes**

To *circumvent* means “to surround, to go around, or to surround by trickery or craft.” In doing so, one gains control. The Latin prefix *circum*, meaning around, is part of English words such as *circumnavigate, circumstance, circumscribe, circumference*, and *circumlocution.*

---
He talked to no one, probably not even to her, for his voice had grown harsh and rusty, as if from disuse.

She died in one of the downstairs rooms, in a heavy walnut bed with a curtain, her gray head propped on a pillow yellow and moldy with age and lack of sunlight.

The Negro met the first of the ladies at the front door and let them in, with their hushed, sibilant voices and their quick, curious glances, and then he disappeared. He walked right through the house and out the back and was not seen again.

The two female cousins came at once. They held the funeral on the second day, with the town coming to look at Miss Emily beneath a mass of bought flowers, with the crayon face of her father musing profoundly above the bier and the ladies sibilant and macabre; and the very old men—some in their brushed Confederate uniforms—on the porch and the lawn, talking of Miss Emily as if she had been a contemporary of theirs, believing that they had danced with her and courted her perhaps, confusing time with its mathematical progression, as the old do, to whom all the past is not a diminishing road but, instead, a huge meadow which no winter ever quite touches, divided from them now by the narrow bottle-neck of the most recent decade of years.

Already we knew that there was one room in that region above stairs which no one had seen in forty years, and which would have to be forced. They waited until Miss Emily was decently in the ground before they opened it.

The violence of breaking down the door seemed to fill this room with pervading dust. A thin, acrid pall as of the tomb seemed to lie everywhere upon this room decked and furnished as for a bridal: upon the valance curtains of faded rose color, upon the rose-shaded lights, upon the dressing table, upon the delicate array of crystal and the man’s toilet things backed with tarnished silver, silver so tarnished that the monogram was obscured. Among them lay a collar and tie, as if they had just been removed, which, lifted, left upon the surface a pale crescent in the dust. Upon a chair hung the suit, carefully folded; beneath it the two mute shoes and the discarded socks.

The man himself lay in the bed.

For a long while we just stood there, looking down at the profound and fleshless grin. The body had apparently once lain in the attitude of an embrace, but now the long sleep that outlasts love, that conquers even the grimace of love, had cuckolded him. What was left of him, rotted beneath what was left of the nightshirt, had become inextricable from the bed in which he lay; and upon him and upon the pillow beside him lay even coating of the patient and biding dust.

Then we noticed that in the second pillow was the indentation of a head. One of us lifted something from it, and leaning forward, that faint and invisible dust dry and acrid in the nostrils, we saw a long strand of iron-gray hair.
Second Read
- Reread the story to answer these text-dependent questions.
- Write any additional questions you have about the text in your Reader/Writer Notebook.

1. **Key Ideas and Details**: In paragraph 2 of section I, what words and phrases in the text indicate how Miss Emily’s house was “an eyesore among eyesores”?

2. **Key Ideas and Details**: How does the author reveal in different sections of the story why Miss Emily needs her taxes remitted, or paid?

3. **Key Ideas and Details**: What is the effect of the author’s description in section I of Miss Emily as looking “bloated, like a body long submerged in motionless water, and of that pallid hue”?

4. **Craft and Structure**: Near the end of section I, what does the sentence “Her voice was dry and cold” mean? How does this sentence reveal an aspect of Miss Emily’s character?

5. **Key Ideas and Details**: In section II, how does the author reveal hints about the source of the smell? What effect does this create for the reader?

6. **Craft and Structure**: What words and phrases in section II show why the townspeople were “vindicated” when Miss Emily was still single at the age of 30?
7. **Key Ideas and Details:** What theme about human nature does the author express at the end of section II? How does this explain Miss Emily’s actions when her father dies?

8. **Key Ideas and Details:** In the first half of section III, what stereotypical attitudes do the townspeople apply to Miss Emily’s character when she is seeing Homer Barron?

9. **Key Ideas and Details:** How does the arrival of Miss Emily’s two female cousins change the town’s opinion of Emily?

10. **Craft and Structure:** Near the end of section IV, the narrator uses five adjectives to describe Miss Emily’s character: *dear, inescapable, impervious, tranquil*, and *pervasive*. What does the juxtaposition of these adjectives imply about the townspeople’s social and political attitudes toward Miss Emily?

11. **Key Ideas and Details:** Did the townspeople know what they would find in Miss Emily’s house? What evidence is there for and against their knowledge throughout the story?

12. **Craft and Structure:** How does the order in which the author relates events in the story affect the reader’s experience of the story?
Working from the Text

13. Reread the last four paragraphs carefully. What details in these paragraphs imply that Miss Emily has defied all stereotypical attitudes regarding her womanhood?

14. Review your questions in the My Notes section. To prepare for a Socratic Seminar, meet with your reading group and compare your levels of questions. From the group’s collected questions, select 10 to 12 questions that you feel best guide and probe an understanding of the story from a Feminist perspective. On one side of index cards, write one question per card; on the reverse side, cite textual evidence that can support responses. Divide the cards among members of the group equally. Be prepared to refer to these cards during the seminar discussion. Record notes from the discussion in the space below.
15. In previous activities, you have studied two texts written by women: “Cinderella, the Legend” and “Why Women Always Take Advantage of Men.” You also have applied the feminist critical perspective to texts written by men: *Pygmalion* and *Rear Window*. “A Rose for Emily” is written by a male, but the gender of the narrator is not identified. Is the narrator male or female? To review the assumptions of Feminist Criticism, think about the works you have read, how you have applied the feminist perspective in each, and what attitudes and details you might expect to discover while applying this lens.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Studied</th>
<th>Plot Conflict, Character, or Values Commentary that Illustrate Feminist Perspective</th>
<th>Implications of Feminist Assumptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>“Cinderella, the Legend”</td>
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<td><em>Rear Window</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>“A Rose for Emily”</td>
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Language and Writer’s Craft: Citing Textual Evidence

For Embedded Assessment 2, you must include textual evidence and commentary to support your thesis statement. As you write the textual evidence on your index cards, practice three important skills of citing textual evidence:

• introducing the citation with an appropriate lead-in
• defining the source (In this case, cite paragraph or section number since the text is in your book)
• commenting on the citation by including explanatory statements

Examples:

Miss Emily’s strong character defies the townspeople. When they visit her to collect taxes, “She just stood in the door and listened quietly until the spokesman came to a stumbling halt” (Part I).

According to the narrator, the townspeople controlled their curiosity as they “waited until Miss Emily was decently in the ground…” (Part V).

In the first paragraph of the story, the narrator introduces gender issues into the story. Announcing that the men and women attend Miss Emily’s funeral for different reasons, the narrator states that “the men [attended] through a sort of respectful affection for a fallen monument…”

PRACTICE After finding your first piece of textual evidence to write on your index cards, follow the example above to practice the skills mentioned for citing textual evidence: introduce with appropriate lead-in, define the source, and comment with explanatory statement.
Writing to Sources: Explanatory Text

Write an analytical essay to explain Miss Emily's portrayal in “A Rose for Emily” from a Feminist Critical perspective. What are the attitudes of the people in the town, and how does Miss Emily respond to those attitudes? Use textual evidence to support and clarify your thinking as you consider criticism that supports your thesis statement. Be sure to:

- Begin with a clear thesis that states your primary interpretation of Faulkner’s story.
- Cite textual evidence to provide reasons for and support your interpretation.
- Introduce and punctuate all quotations correctly.
- Include original commentary on textual evidence.

Independent Reading Checkpoint

Review your independent reading and any notes you have taken. What have you learned about Feminist Criticism and its application to literature? Discuss your learning with classmates, clarify your understanding of Feminist Criticism and its assumptions, and add new insight to your notes. How can this information help you complete the upcoming Embedded Assessment?
ASSIGNMENT

Your assignment is to write an analytical essay applying the Feminist Critical Perspective to a short story. You have two stories to read and choose from, “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin or “The Chaser” by John Collier. (Both stories are included on the following pages.)

Planning and Prewriting: Read critically and collect your evidence.

- Which of the two stories resonates with you on a personal level?
- What questions are asked about a text when it is read from a feminist perspective?
- How will you collect your initial ideas (e.g., brainstorming, a graphic organizer)?
- How will you determine which ideas should go into your draft?

Drafting: Craft your analysis.

- How much summary is necessary to introduce the story to the audience? How much is too much?
- How can you use textual evidence to support and clarify your thinking?
- How can you make sure that your writing is clear and engaging to your audience (e.g., using rhetorical devices, sentence variety, transitions between ideas)?

Evaluating and Revising Your Draft: Review and improve to make your work the best it can be.

- How can you sequence your writing to walk your audience through a critical analysis?
- How can you use your peers and the Scoring Guide to help evaluate your draft and guide your revision?

Checking and Editing for Publication: Confirm that your final draft is ready.

- How will you check for grammatical and technical accuracy?
- What tools are available to you to create a technically sound text (e.g., dictionary or format guide, spell check)?

Reflection

After completing this Embedded Assessment, think about how you went about accomplishing this assignment, and respond to the following:

- How was your analysis of the text shaped by the assumptions of the Feminist Criticism?
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Katherine O’Flaherty Chopin (1850–1904) became a keen observer of New Orleans culture after her marriage to Oscar Chopin of Louisiana. She depicted the regional flavor and racial tensions of Creole and Cajun people in the short story collections *Bayou Folk* (1894) and *A Night in Acadie* (1897). Her best-known work is *The Awakening* (1899), a novel that explores the emotional growth of a dissatisfied New Orleans wife and mother. Contemporary critics condemned *The Awakening* for its frank treatment of sexuality and women’s independence.

Short Story

**The Story of an Hour**

by Kate Chopin

1 Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband’s death.

2 It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband’s friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard’s name leading the list of “killed.” He had only taken the time to assure himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

3 She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister’s arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

4 There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul.

5 She could see in the open square before her house the tops of trees that were all aquiver with the new spring life. The delicious breath of rain was in the air. In the street below a peddler was crying his wares. The notes of a distant song which someone was singing reached her faintly, and countless sparrows were twittering in the eaves.

6 There were patches of blue sky showing here and there through the clouds that had met and piled one above the other in the west facing her window.

7 She sat with her head thrown back upon the cushion of the chair, quite motionless, except when a sob came up into her throat and shook her, as a child who has cried itself to sleep continues to sob in its dreams.

8 She was young, with a fair, calm face, whose lines bespoke repression and even a certain strength. But now there was a dull stare in her eyes, whose gaze was fixed away off yonder on one of those patches of blue sky. It was not a glance of reflection, but rather indicated a suspension of intelligent thought.
There was something coming to her and she was waiting for it, fearfully. What was it? She did not know; it was too subtle and elusive to name. But she felt it, creeping out of the sky, reaching toward her through the sounds, the scents, the color that filled the air.

Now her bosom rose and fell tumultuously. She was beginning to recognize this thing that was approaching to possess her, and she was striving to beat it back with her will—as powerless as her two white slender hands would have been. When she abandoned herself a little whispered word escaped her slightly parted lips. She said it over and over under her breath: “free, free, free!” The vacant stare and the look of terror that had followed it went from her eyes. They stayed keen and bright. Her pulses beat fast, and the coursing blood warmed and relaxed every inch of her body.

She did not stop to ask if it were or were not a monstrous joy that held her. A clear and exalted perception enabled her to dismiss the suggestion as trivial. She knew that she would weep again when she saw the kind, tender hands folded in death; the face that had never looked save with love upon her, fixed and gray and dead. But she saw beyond that bitter moment a long procession of years to come that would belong to her absolutely. And she opened and spread her arms out to them in welcome.

There would be no one to live for during those coming years; she would live for herself. There would be no powerful will bending hers in that blind persistence with which men and women believe they have a right to impose a private will upon a fellow-creature. A kind intention or a cruel intention made the act seem no less a crime as she looked upon it in that brief moment of illumination.

And yet she had loved him—sometimes. Often she had not. What did it matter! What could love, the unsolved mystery, count for in the face of this possession of self-assertion which she suddenly recognized as the strongest impulse of her being!

“Free! Body and soul free!” she kept whispering.

Josephine was kneeling before the closed door with her lips to the keyhole, imploring for admission. “Louise, open the door! I beg; open the door—you will make yourself ill. What are you doing, Louise? For heaven’s sake open the door.”

“Go away. I am not making myself ill.” No; she was drinking in a very elixir of life through that open window.

Her fancy was running riot along those days ahead of her. Spring days, and summer days, and all sorts of days that would be her own. She breathed a quick prayer that life might be long. It was only yesterday she had thought with a shudder that life might be long.

She arose at length and opened the door to her sister’s importunities. There was a feverish triumph in her eyes, and she carried herself unwittingly like a goddess of Victory. She clasped her sister’s waist, and together they descended the stairs. Richards stood waiting for them at the bottom.

Someone was opening the front door with a latchkey. It was Brently Mallard who entered, a little travel-stained, composedly carrying his grip-sack and umbrella. He had been far from the scene of the accident, and did not even know there had been one. He stood amazed at Josephine’s piercing cry; at Richards’ quick motion to screen him from the view of his wife.

When the doctors came they said she had died of heart disease—of the joy that kills.
ABOUT THE AUTHOR
John Henry Noyes Collier (1901–1980) was a British-born author and screenplay writer. Collier was educated by his uncle in London and decided in his late teens that he wanted to be a writer. Writers and artists of the 1920s influenced Collier as he was drawn to modern literary styles, visual images, and ideals. He is best known for his short stories, many of which appeared in The New Yorker. His story collection Fancies and Goodnights won the International Fantasy Award in 1951.

Short Story
The Chaser

by John Collier

1 Alan Austen, as nervous as a kitten, went up certain dark and creaky stairs in the neighborhood of Pell Street, and peered about for a long time on the dime landing before he found the name he wanted written obscurely on one of the doors.

2 He pushed open this door, as he had been told to do, and found himself in a tiny room, which contained no furniture but a plain kitchen table, a rocking chair, and an ordinary chair. On one of the dirty buff-coloured walls were a couple of shelves, containing in all perhaps a dozen bottles and jars. An old man sat in the rocking chair, reading a newspaper. Alan, without a word, handed him the card he had been given.

3 “Sit down, Mr. Austen,” said the old man very politely.

4 “I am glad to make your acquaintance.”

5 “Is it true,” asked Alan, “that you have a certain mixture that has—er—quite extraordinary effects?”

6 “My dear sir,” replied the old man, “my stock in trade is not very large. I don’t deal in laxatives and teething mixtures but such as it is, it is varied. I think nothing I sell has effects which could be precisely described as ordinary.”

7 “Well, the fact is …” began Alan.

8 “Here, for example,” interrupted the old man, reaching for a bottle from the shelf. “Here is a liquid as colourless as water, almost tasteless, quite imperceptible in coffee, wine, or any other beverage. It is also quite imperceptible to any known method of autopsy.”

9 “Do you mean it is a poison?” cried Alan, very much horrified.

10 “Call it a glove-cleaner if you like,” said the old man indifferently. “Maybe it will clean gloves. I have never tried. One might call it a life-cleaner. Lives need cleaning sometimes.”
“I want nothing of that sort,” said Alan.

“Probably it is just as well,” said the old man. “Do you know the price of this? For one teaspoonful, which is sufficient, I ask five thousand dollars. Never less. Not a penny less.”

“I hope all your mixtures are not as expensive,” said Alan apprehensively.

“Oh dear, no,” said the old man. “It would be no good charging that sort of price for a love potion, for example. Young people who need a love potion very seldom have five thousand dollars. Otherwise they would not need a love potion.”

“I am glad to hear that,” said Alan.

“I look at it like this,” said the old man. “Please a customer with one article, and he will come back when he needs another. Even if it is more costly. He will save up for it, if necessary.”

“So,” said Alan, “you really do sell love potions?”

“If I did not sell love potions,” said the old man, reaching for another bottle, “I should not have mentioned the other matter to you. It is only when one is in a position to oblige that one can afford to be so confidential.”

“And these potions,” said Alan, “they are not just—just—er …

“Oh, no,” said the old man. “Their effects are permanent, and extend far beyond the mere casual impulse. But they include it. Oh, yes they include it. Bountifully, insistently. Everlastingly.”

“Dear me!” said Alan, attempting a look of scientific detachment. “How very interesting!”

“But consider the spiritual side,” said the old man.

“I do, indeed,” said Alan.

“For indifference,” said the old man, “they substitute devotion. For scorn, adoration. Give one tiny measure of this to the young lady—its flavour is imperceptible in orange juice, soup, or cocktails and however gay and giddy she is, she will change altogether. She will want nothing but solitude and you.”

“I can hardly believe it,” said Alan. “She is so fond of parties.”

“She will not like them any more,” said the old man. “She will be afraid of the pretty girls you may meet.”

“She will actually be jealous?” cried Alan in a rapture. “Of me?”

“Yes, she will want to be everything to you.”

“She is, already. Only she doesn't care about it.”

“She will, when she has taken this. She will care intensely. You will be her sole interest in life.”

“Wonderful!” cried Alan.

“She will want to know all you do,” said the old man. “All that has happened to you during the day. Every word of it. She will want to know what you are thinking about, why you smile suddenly, why you are looking sad.”

“That is love!” cried Alan.
“Yes,” said the old man. “How carefully she will look after you! She will never allow you to be tired, to sit in a draught, to neglect your food. If you are an hour late, she will be terrified. She will think you are killed, or that some siren has caught you.”

“I can hardly imagine Diana like that!” cried Alan, overwhelmed with joy.

“You will not have to use your imagination,” said the old man. “And, by the way, since there are always sirens, if by any chance you should, later on, slip a little, you need not worry. She will forgive you, in the end. She will be terribly hurt, of course, but she will forgive you in the end.”

“That will not happen,” said Alan fervently.

“Of course not,” said the old man. “But, if it did, you need not worry. She would never divorce you. Oh, no! And, of course, she will never give you the least, the very least, grounds for uneasiness.”

“And how much,” said Alan, “is this wonderful mixture?”

“It is not as dear,” said the old man, “as the glove-cleaner, or life-cleaner, as I sometimes call it. No. That is five thousand dollars, never a penny less. One has to be older than you are, to indulge in that sort of thing. One has to save up for it.”

“But the love potion?” said Alan.

“Oh, that,” said the old man, opening the drawer in the kitchen table, and taking out a tiny, rather dirty-looking phial. “That is just a dollar.”

“I can’t tell you how grateful I am,” said Alan, watching him fill it.

“I like to oblige,” said the old man. “Then customers come back, later in life, when they are better off, and want more expensive things. Here you are. You will find it very effective.”

“Thank you again,” said Alan. “Goodbye.”

“Au revoir,” said the man.
## SCORING GUIDE

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<th>Scoring Criteria</th>
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<td><strong>Ideas</strong></td>
<td>The essay • demonstrates a thorough understanding of the short story • perceptively applies the Feminist Critical perspective to the text • uses well-chosen details that support the thesis to analyze the work.</td>
<td>The essay • demonstrates an understanding of the short story • appropriately applies the Feminist Critical perspective to the text • analyzes the work with appropriate details that support the thesis.</td>
<td>The essay • demonstrates a superficial understanding of the short story • contains an underdeveloped application of Feminist Criticism • contains too few examples or details, possibly replaced by excessive summary.</td>
<td>The essay • demonstrates little understanding of the short story • does not apply Feminist Criticism • contains few examples or details and may repeat some details unnecessarily.</td>
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<td><strong>Structure</strong></td>
<td>The essay • follows an exceptionally clear organization • uses transitions effectively and creatively to move smoothly from one idea to the next.</td>
<td>The essay • organizes ideas clearly so that they are easy to follow • uses transitions to move between ideas.</td>
<td>The essay • organizes ideas in ways that are difficult to follow • uses few transitions or jumps too rapidly between ideas.</td>
<td>The essay • uses a confusing organization • uses few or no transitions to move between limited ideas.</td>
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<td><strong>Use of Language</strong></td>
<td>The essay • crafts language to enhance the analysis and consistently convey an academic voice • successfully weaves in textual evidence from the story • demonstrates strong control and mastery of standard writing conventions.</td>
<td>The essay • uses language clearly to communicate the analysis and demonstrate an appropriate academic voice • accurately weaves in textual evidence from the story • demonstrates control of standard writing conventions; may contain minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.</td>
<td>The essay • uses language that does not clearly communicate the analysis or demonstrate an academic voice • awkwardly or inaccurately incorporates evidence from the story • contains frequent errors in standard writing conventions that interfere with meaning.</td>
<td>The essay • does not clearly communicate the analysis or use an academic voice • inaccurately uses a few details from the story • contains numerous errors in standard writing conventions that seriously impede understanding.</td>
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