Psychoanalytic criticism argues that literary texts, like dreams, express *the secret unconscious desires and anxieties of the author*, that a literary work is a manifestation of the author's own neuroses.

One may psychoanalyze a particular character within a literary work, but it is usually assumed that all such characters are projections of the author's psyche.

It seeks evidence of unresolved emotions, psychological conflicts, guilts, ambivalences, and so forth within a literary work. The author's own childhood traumas, family life, sexual conflicts, fixations, and such will be traceable within the behavior of the characters in the literary work assumed that all such characters are projections of the author's psyche.

**General Questions for a Psychoanalytic lens:**

How do the operations of repression structure or inform the work?

* Are there veiled desires/impulses expressed through characters or actions that may indicate repression on the author’s part? How does this affect our understanding of the text?

Are there any oedipal dynamics - or any other family dynamics - at work here?

* Do we see conflict with parent figure of the same gender? Do we see a strong love/fondness for the parent figure of the opposite gender? What about sibling rivalry?

How can characters' behavior, narrative events, and/or images be explained in terms of psychoanalytic concepts of any kind (for example...fear or fascination with death, sexuality - which includes love and romance as well as sexual behavior - as a primary indicator of psychological identity or the operations of ego-id-superego)?

* Do we see indications of choices the author made that can be traced to his/her unconscious?

What does the work suggest about the psychological being of its author?

* Is this a disturbed or unstable person? What unconscious issues might we identify about this person through their work?

What might a given interpretation of a literary work suggest about the *psychological* motives of the reader?

* Are there indications that the author is writing with (conscious or unconscious) motives to express some personal psychological issues?

Are there prominent words in the piece that could have different or hidden meanings? Could there be a subconscious reason for the author using these "problem words"?

* These might be descriptions or symbols that stand out as unique or odd choices to indicate something more is going on.

Using the classic short stories website (classicshorts.com) or a resource of your own, you will choose a short story with which you will apply a psychoanalytic lens. You are welcome to choose a short story you have read previously in an English class, but be sure you are considering your choice wisely for enough content to accomplish your task. **(40 pts reading)**

To do this, you will

* Create a document in MLA format with a proper header. Title your paper “The Psychoanalytic lens of (Author’s full name) (Title of the Text)”
* **Summarize the text** including significant actions, descriptions, symbols, thematic developments, etc. This should be textually accurate while still including details through the psychoanalytic lens. Include general details in standard bullets and psychoanalytic insights in indented bullets (20 pts)
	+ Your summary should have a minimum of 25 *detailed* bullet points
* **Provide insightful questions** about the text regarding the psychoanalytic lens.
	+ Include a minimum of 5 thorough questions that go beyond comprehension but instead ask open ended questions that require an in depth exploration of the text and its contents. (5 pts)
* **Create a psychological profile** of the author based on the story. What drives this person? What are their unconscious desires? Fixations? Relational challenges? Etc.
	+ This should come in the form of a *thorough paragraph or two* that uses the content of the text to postulate conclusions about the author in regards to his or her unconscious and *(un)intended* purpose of the story. (15 pts)
* Finally, you will both submit a hard copy to me on Tuesday, October 25th and a digital submission to turnitin.com by Monday, October 24th at 11:59 PM.