Mythological and Literary Archetypes

Research Paper Project

English 102H: Honors College Composition 2

Professor Ben Davis Jr.
Guidelines: *The following items will be kept in a two-pocket notebook folder as parts of your research paper activities:

1. You will compose a eight-page research paper that includes a minimum of a variety of eight (8) but no more than twelve (12) expert, published, primary and secondary scholarly research sources in print, non-print and electronic forms from the college library must be used to validate your comments. In accordance with the Modern Language Association’s documentation format for citing prose, poetry and drama, proper signal phrases (complete, partial, and generic) must be incorporated into the paper and must include various citations (summary, paraphrase, and direct quotations), and subsequent parenthetical references. Below are the required forms and numbers of the sources for your works cited:

   a. Consult two to five book sources on your topic—this might include any original works published. [Primary sources]
   b. Two (2) reference book sources (which often include articles or essays) [Secondary sources]
   c. Three (3) scholarly print magazine articles evaluating and explaining the myth and particular concepts in question [Secondary sources]
   d. Two (2) Internet sources on the subject (you may not use more than two!) [Secondary sources]
   e. One (1) newspaper article on the subject, where feasible, and/or anything related to it—published maybe as an interpretation or an expose about the topic itself [Secondary sources]
   f. If available, consult a film or video work done as a critique, review or interpretation of the subject—such as those done on PBS, YouTube, or TV programs, videos or DVDs—avoid popularized forms shown in movie theatres. [Secondary sources]

   NOTE: Regarding the length of this paper (ten full pages from Introduction to Conclusion) you will compose a complete, appealing introduction paragraph with clearly defined thesis sentence, a properly developed and documented body section, and a conclusion paragraph that presents a well-developed and unifying summation that explains the significance of the research findings on the topic chosen. The final draft must exhibit correct grammar, spelling (especially of author’s names and any literary concepts that will be used), punctuation, sentence structure, organization, and development of the paper’s Body paragraphs, proper document design, and college-level quality to receive full credit for the assignment.

2. All process approach work (the research proposal, preliminary bibliography, bibliography cards, citation note cards, photocopies of print magazine and/or book sources, electronic sources and a minimum of two (2) completed, full rough drafts) are required to be handed in on the due date with your final draft. NOTICE: ESSAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED OR GRADED WITHOUT THESE ITEMS!
English 102H Mythological and Literary Archetypes Research Paper 3

Topic: Analyze a Mythological and Literary Archetype. Choose a specific form from the list of archetypes* below and develop a theory about why this symbol, theme or character exists as a universally recognized element of ancient myth.

To support your theory you should draw upon some of Dr. Carl Jung’s basic and traditional psychoanalytical approaches to the (mythological) archetypes as background resources, determine how widespread this archetype is in world myth through a variety of searches, discuss its relevance to modern society to aid in your analysis using a theory you have developed about the importance and universality of the archetype itself possibly through:

- popular fairy tales,
- folk legends,
- myths,
- poems, and
- plays

Choose about five different cultural groups/regions:

- African,
- European,
- Asian,
- Middle Eastern,
- South American,
- North American.

* Archetypes: You must choose only one (1) subject from only one (1) of the three mythological and literary archetypal forms provided:

1. Choose only one of the following archetypal symbols:
   - Serpent—as either snake or dragon,
   - water—as in rivers, lakes, or oceans,
   - birds—as in the eagle, dove, raven/crow, hawk, or falcon,
   - the wolf, or
   - sun/fire

   or

2. Choose only one of the following archetypal themes:
   - The hero’s journey—as in the hero’s quest, the hero’s initiation, and the hero as sacrificial scapegoat,
   - The fall from grace and innocence,
   - Death and resurrection,
   - Salvation and personal truth,
   - The garden vs. the desert, or
   - The archetypal seasons as given in ancient myths or legends
3. Choose only one of the following archetypal characters:

- Tricksters—human and/or animal,
- The archetypal woman (Write about only one specific focus from the following forms for this character:
  1) The Earth Mother,
  2) The Great/Holy Mother,
  3) The Good Mother,
  4) The Terrible Mother (specifically here as jealous and evil stepmother or queen),
  5) The threatened Virgin,
  6) The sorceress/witch
  7) The femme fatale, siren or whore
  8) Female connections with the symbology of water
- The Wise Old Man (focus on only one of the following forms: 1) the savior, 2) the guru/mentor, or 3) the redeemer,
- The archetypal devil, seducer, corruptor
- The Hero’s Journey—the quest, the initiation and sacrificial scapegoat
- The Tragic Hero (focus on only one of the following forms):
  1) savior,
  2) warrior, or
  3) chief or king

This paper involves a four-step writing process:

1. Step one: Begin your preliminary research with a one-paragraph written proposal including a working thesis statement, potential sources for research material, and a general direction for your argument; most important, consider in what form the image manifests itself, in which five cultures does it appear, in what forms of literary expression does it exist.

2. Step two: Your research should include investigation of the forms of literary expression. Is it in fairytales, folk legends, myths, plays, and poetry? What secondary sources analyze it? Scholarly journals or articles, books, novels, Internet sites, reviews of plays and poems related to your archetype? Is it evaluated in art and music reviews published about relevant paintings and/or songs?

3. Step three: Rough draft submission and revision based on my comments and your further consideration of the paper topic as per the mandatory conferences on the research paper.

4. Step four: Submission of the final draft (also include all rough drafts).
Audience: Assume your reader is somewhat familiar with the myths. You may provide a brief summary of the original fairy tale(s), folk tale(s), tall tale(s), legend(s), myth(s), poem(s), or play(s) in question. In addition, when you engage in any form of summary it should be in direct support of a claim you are making for the purpose of analysis.

Thesis question: After choosing and exploring the specific archetype, answer the following question:

- How does the archetypal symbol, theme, or character hold such a universal appeal in the poems, plays, myths or legends wherein which you find them?

For your response to this question, advance a leading claim (thesis) investigate the universal appeal of symbolism, theme, or characterization in the literary works you choose. Your opening paragraph should include traditional approaches to this archetype (as support for your own interpretation of its significance), a discussion of how widespread the archetype is in world literature, art, folklore, the archetype’s continued relevance in modern society and a treatment of specific fairy tales, folk legends, myths, plays, poems, or art and music using your leading claim about your chosen archetype.

Support: For whichever option you choose for a topic, follow the Modern Language Association guidelines for citing prose sources, plays, and poetry. Use index cards to organize your research. Refer directly to your various research sources for support of any claims you make. Again, avoid simple summary when discussing a myth, etc., but weave in details as part of a larger argument. Be sure to include parenthetical page references with any specific citations in their required formats.
Basic Research Principles:

Each research project that you take on is a search for reliable, usable information. To succeed in that search, follow these basic guidelines:

1. Think quality.
2. Be patient and persistent.
3. Know what research technology can and cannot do.
4. Work with experts, especially the college reference librarian.
5. Master keyword searching.
6. Use sources to discover other sources.
7. Keep good, organized notes and records.
8. Evaluate all sources.
9. Work to develop insights.
10. Fit the research to the subject.

II. Exploration:

2. What specific original works will I explore?
3. What critical secondary sources—scholarly articles from books and periodicals—will I explore? Be as specific as possible here with regard to author’s names and titles of the critical sources.

Formulate a preliminary thesis about your subject from a thesis question regarding your topic. Find a specific narrow focus or feature on the chosen myth and formulate an answer to that question.
On-Line Resources:

- Encyclopedia Mythica
- Legends
- Myth and Legend from Ancient Times to the Space Age
- Of Gods and Men: The A-Z of Mythology and Legend
- The San Fernando Valley Folklore Society's Urban Legends Reference Pages

For Further Reading: General Sources

Below are listed a range of authors and works dealing with some aspect of mythology. They are suggestions for research:

- Thomas Bulfinch, *Mythology*
- Joseph Campbell
  - *The Hero With a Thousand Faces*
  - *The Power of Myth*
  - *The Masks of God*
  - *The Inner Reaches of Outer Space*
- Edward Hallett Carr, *What Is History?*
- Jane Chance, *Medieval Mythology: From Roman North Africa to the School of Chartres*
- Umberto Eco, "The Myth of Superman"
- Sir James George Frazier, *The Golden Bough: The Roots of Religion and Folklore*
- Sigmund Freud
  - *Dreams in Folklore*
  - *Moses and Monotheism*
  - *Totem and Taboo*
- Carlo Ginzberg, *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method*
- Carl Gustav Jung, *The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious*
- Friedrich Max Muller, *Comparative Mythology*
- Claude Levi-Strauss
  - "The Structural Study of Myth"
  - *Myth and Meaning*
- Vladimir Propp
  - "Fairy Tale Transformations"
  - *Morphology of the Folktale*
- J. R. R. Tolkien, "On Fairy Stories."
- Giambattista Vico, *Scienza Nuova*
- Max Weber
  - *The Religions of India: The Sociology of Hinduism and Buddhism*
  - *The Sociology of Religions*
British Isles:

- Bradley, S. A. J., trans. *Anglo-Saxon Poetry*
- Briggs, Katherine, *British Folktales*
- Cross, Tom Peete, and Clark Harris Slover, *Ancient Irish Tales*
- Fisher, D. J. V., *The Anglo-Saxon Age: c. 400-1042*
- Gray, Elizabeth A., ed. *Cath Maige Tuired: The Second Battle of Mag Tuired*
- *The Mabinogion*
- MacCana, Proinsias. *Celtic Mythology*
- Powell, T. G. E., *The Celts*
- Salway, Peter, *Roman Britain*
- Tolkien, J. R. R., trans. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Classical:

- Homer
  - *The Iliad*
  - *The Odyssey*
- Sophocles, *The Theban Plays*
- Virgil, *The Aeneid*

Other sources including Native American books on myth:

- Battle, Kemp P. *Great American Folklore: Legends, Tales, Ballads and Superstitions from all Across America*
- Burton, Richard F. *Tales from the Arabian Nights*
- *The Complete Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales*
- Caduto, Michael J. and Joseph Bruchac. *Native American Stories (Myths and Legends)*
- ----. and Joseph Bruchac. *Keepers of the Animals*
- ----. and Joseph Bruchac. *Keepers of the Earth*
- Erdoes, Richard and Alfonso Ortiz. *American Indian Myths and Legends*
- Feldmann, Susan *The Storytelling Stone: Traditional Native American Myths and Tales*
- Mackenzie, Donald A. *India*. Myths and Legends Series.
- Wolkstein, Diane, and Samuel Noah Kramer. *Inanna, Queen of Heaven and Earth: Her Stories and Hymns from Sumer*
Other Helpful Databases to consult:

- Humanities abstracts
- MLA International Bibliography
- Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature
- Ohio Link collection of databases under the subject of English

Check in the American literature section of the library—if the library uses Dewey Decimal system then ask for assistance—the call numbers range from 810.0 to 818 (literature continues on into the 900s) for Modern Critical Reviews.

For Internet sources, consult the Internet Public Library, or Yahoo.com, and others suggested by the reference librarian—NOTE: You are to consult only academic or scholarly websites that reveal criticism and analysis on your subject and not the general/non-academic sites. Ask the college librarian for assistance locating academic Internet sources on your topic.
Library research/time management schedule:

Date assignment was received ______________________

1. Planning: 
   a. Start a research log ____________________
   b. Choose a suitable topic (via assignment sheet, etc.) ____________________
   c. Draft a preliminary thesis ____________________
   d. Decide on purpose and audience ____________________
   e. Draft a typed proposal ____________________
   f. Begin exploration:
      1f. Search for primary sources ____________________
      2f. Search for secondary sources ____________________
   g. Evaluate sources ____________________
   h. Decide on appropriate documentation style ____________________
   i. Gather other needed equipment ____________________

2. Researching:
   a. Start a “search strategy” ____________________
   b. Decide on types of research:
      1b. Field research? ____________________
      2b. Interview? ____________________
      3b. Print and/or electronic sources? ____________________
   c. Schedule tasks and appointments if 1b or 2b? ____________________
   d. Consult Library of Congress Subject Headings per 3b?
      1d. get library call numbers ____________________
      2d. begin list of headings and key words ____________________
   e. Consult reference works
      1e. general reference works ____________________
      2e. specialized ____________________
   g. Consult book catalogs on literary works ____________________
   h. Consult literary periodicals ____________________
   i. Decide on electronic sources: tapes, CD-ROMs, etc. ____________________
   j. Decide on using online literary sources ____________________
   k. Hand in note cards and preliminary bibliography ________

3. Compose (write) the research paper:
   a. Draft a preliminary thesis statement; expect to revise it ________
   b. Prepare a draft for instructor ________
   c. Prepare a topic sentence outline ________
   d. Use correct in-text citations ________
   e. Revise the paper ________
   f. Prepare for in-class peer-review session ________
   g. Conference with instructor ________
   h. Compile a list of works cited ________

Final draft is due in class on: __________________________________________
Short Research Proposal Guidelines

Read the following directions carefully: For the research paper, create a double space typed proposal written as an organized paragraph of no fewer than one-hundred fifty (150) but no more than three-hundred (300) words that:

1. **States the purpose of the paper first**—use articulates such as “to explain,” “to analyze,” “to argue,” or “to reveal”; next, **introduce** your research topic: i.e., “The subject of this proposal involves a comparison of the Creation myths between the Navajo tribal nation and . . .”

2. **Presents some [brief] background information** on the topic of choice: “The American Navajo lived in . . .”

3. **Identifies both the primary and secondary sources to be used in the paper regarding the author.** Using Modern Language Association documentation format, identify specific titles of *primary* sources of the subject. If these include poetry, then identify authors and titles. Titles of short poems require quotations: “Simile” by N. Scott Momaday. Also, using *MLA* format, what specific *secondary* sources are written about the topic in question? Identify those specific titles. Titles of books, magazines, and newspaper periodicals require italics (or underlining): *The Dictionary of Literary Biography* (reference book), *Shakespeare Studies* (magazine periodical), or *The Village Voice* (newspaper periodical). Titles of essays and published interviews, titles of magazine and newspaper articles, or chapters of books and/or chapter articles all require quotations: “Harping on Racism,” (essay), “August Wilson on Drama: Black Experience in America,” (article out of a book chapter), or “Interview with Octavia Estelle Butler on Black Characters and Science Fiction” (published interview). Titles of plays and epic poems may also use italics (or underlining): *Oedipus the King* (play), *Dante’s Inferno* (play), or *Beowulf* (epic poetry) or *The Epic of Gilgamesh* (epic poetry).

   - **NOTE:** Avoid using obscure or unidentifiable sources that do not at least have authors or titles in them; also, do not list a URL (Universal Resource Locator) address (i.e., www.yahoo.com) as this is insufficient and often not identifiable as to specific sources. Include only clearly identifiable Internet sources in this proposal. Academic websites and web pages have names/titles!

4. **Clarifies your position or assertion as the writer/researcher (advocate? Informer?).** Write out your preliminary thesis (sentence) or opening hypothesis on your research topic that responds to the assigned thesis question.
Checklist for final draft of the research paper:
When you hand in your research paper, please make sure to include the following:

1. Typed, properly formatted, final draft stapled together in the following order:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Title page (properly formatted in <em>MLA</em> style)</td>
<td>2.5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Topic sentence outline (properly formatted)</td>
<td>2.5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Text: Manuscript format in <em>MLA</em> style required: Full complete pages from page 1 to page 10: Introduction paragraph, Body paragraphs, Conclusion Paragraph</td>
<td>85 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Works Cited (properly formatted in <em>MLA</em> style)</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. All process work (includes rough drafts [(2) minimum handwritten, (2) minimum typed], photocopies of research articles, hard copies of Internet sources, graded proposal, graded bibliography note cards, graded topic sentence outline, citation note cards, and graded working bibliography)</td>
<td>5 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 100 points

- a. An *MLA*-style cover page.
- b. Outline—use topic sentence format.
- c. A minimum of ten (10) full pages of text—no more than eleven: The Introduction, Body, and Conclusion of the paper—typed double space.
- d. Works cited.

2. Include the following as process approach work:

- a. Personal notes on the topic
- b. Graded bibliography note cards
- c. Citation note cards
- d. Photocopies of research articles, other pertinent research materials
- e. Preliminary research activities work that was collected and checked earlier
- f. A minimum of two (2) handwritten early, rough drafts—including your draft from peer-review—and two (2) typed rough drafts. Place everything in your two-pocket essay assignment notebook folder for the research paper—no plastic covers please—keep the final draft separate from the process approach work.

3. Points will be deducted if the paper does not meet all requirements in this checklist.