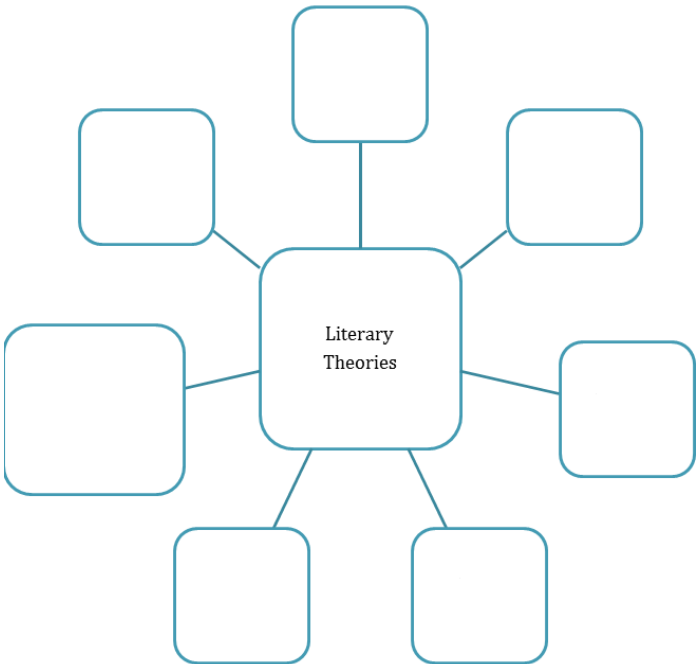
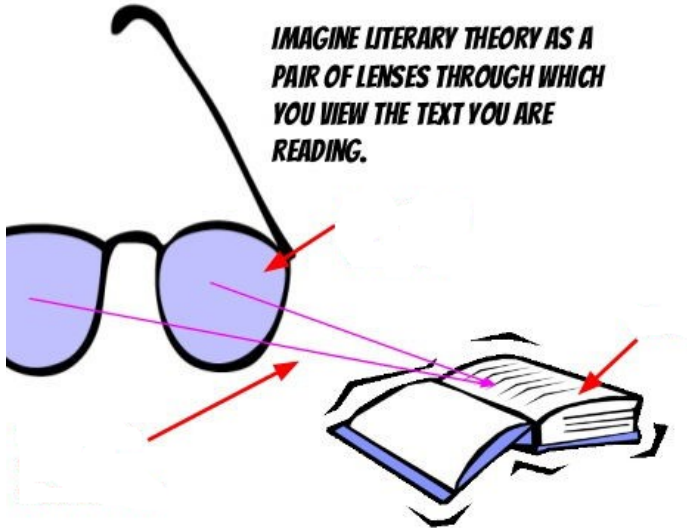


The Feminist Lens (Lesson 1)

Literary theories are ideas that act as different lenses critics use to view and talk about art, literature, and even culture. These different lenses allow critics to focus on particular aspects of a work they consider important.

Label the following two images:

 <p style="text-align: center;">Literary Theories</p> <p>Gender criticism, Postcolonial criticism, Reader response theory, New criticism, Cultural studies, Structuralism & Poststructuralism, Marxism</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Glasses - Literary theory Book - Text Purple lines - The way you view the text</p>
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Key Terms

Term	Definitions + Examples
Feminism	The belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes (men and women)
Patriarchy	The control by men of most of the power and authority in a society.
Sex	The male or female of a species, distinguished basis of their reproductive organs

	and structures
Gender	The behavioral, cultural, or psychological traits typically associated with one sex
Class	The system of ordering a society in which people are divided into sets based on perceived social or economic (\$) status.
Intersectionality	The way in which different types of discrimination (= unfair treatment because of a person's sex, race, etc.) are linked to and affect each other:

**The Feminist Lens
(Lesson 2)**

The Feminist Lens	<p>Feminist criticism is concerned with "the ways in which literature (and other cultural productions) reinforce or undermine the <u>economic</u>, <u>political</u>, <u>social</u>, and <u>psychological</u> oppression of women."</p> <p>This school of theory looks at how aspects of our culture are inherently <u>patriarchal</u> (male dominated) and aims to expose <u>misogyny</u>* in writing about women, which can take <u>direct</u> and <u>indirect</u> forms.</p> <p>(What is misogyny? <u>The feelings of hating women, or the belief that men are much better than women</u>)</p> <p>Feminist criticism is also concerned with less obvious forms of marginalization such as the <u>exclusion</u> of women writers from the traditional literary <u>canon</u>*. (The Western canon is traditionally dominated by "<u>dead white males</u>": Feminists seek to make the canon more <u>diverse</u>.)</p> <p>(What is the canon? <u>The writing or other works that are generally agreed to be good, important, and worth studying</u>)</p>
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	<p>Because feminist issues range so widely across cultural, social, political, and psychological categories, feminist literary criticism is wide ranging, too. Whatever kind of analysis is undertaken, however, the ultimate goal of feminist criticism is to increase our understanding of women's <u>experience</u>, both in the past and present, and promote our <u>appreciation</u> of women's <u>value</u> in the world.</p>
Feminists Believe	<p>1. Women are oppressed by <u>patriarchy</u> economically, politically, socially, and psychologically; patriarchal <u>ideology</u> is the primary means by which women are oppressed.</p> <p>2-In every domain where patriarchy reigns, woman is <u>other</u>: she is <u>marginalized</u>, defined only by her difference from male norms and values.</p> <p>3-All of <u>Western</u> (Anglo-European) <u>civilization</u> is deeply rooted in patriarchal ideology, for example, in the Biblical portrayal of Eve as the origin of sin and death in the world.</p> <p>4.-While <u>biology</u> determines our sex (male or female), <u>culture</u> determines our gender (scales of masculine and feminine).</p> <p>5.-All feminist activity, including feminist theory and literary criticism, has as its ultimate goal to change the world by prompting gender <u>equality</u>.</p> <p>6-Gender issues play a part in <u>every</u> aspect of human production and experience, including the production and experience of <u>literature</u>, whether we are consciously aware of these issues or not.</p>

<p>Feminist Critics Ask</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How is the relationship between men and women portrayed? ● What are the power relationships between men and women (or characters assuming male/female roles)? ● How are male and female roles defined? ● What constitutes masculinity and femininity? ● How do characters embody these traits? ● Do characters take on traits from opposite genders? How so? How does this change others' reactions to them? ● What does the work reveal about the operations (economically, politically, socially, or psychologically) of patriarchy? ● What does the work imply about the possibilities of sisterhood as a mode of resisting patriarchy? ● What does the work say about women's creativity? ● What does the history of the work's reception by the public and by the critics tell us about the operation of patriarchy? ● What role does the work play in terms of women's literary history and literary tradition?
<p>Examples of Feminist Analysis</p>	<p>Alice is an interesting case study for feminist critics. For, although written by a man during the Victorian Era, the book's strong female heroine and her adventures are a veritable gold mine for feminist critics to study. In fact, Judith Little even wrote that the Alice books are "almost a comic compendium of feminist issues" (195).</p> <p>Read the slides about <i>Alice in Wonderland</i>. Which of the three feminist interpretations (rebel, slave, other women) do you find most persuasive? Why?</p> <p><u>I find that Alice the Rebel is the most persuasive compared to the other feminist interpretations. This is because in this interpretation, Alice is said to be "literally 'underground' image of a woman resisting the 'system'" (Little 204), and also shows examples of some of her traits such as assertiveness, activity, and curiosity. This interpretation explains in detail, and also describes how Alice is like as a person (independent).</u></p>
<p>Reflection</p>	<p>1-What did you learn about the feminist lens today? What did you find most interesting?</p>

In the feminist lens, I learned about different terms and definitions that are related to feminism, such as intersectionality. I found that the way women were treated differently was interesting, as I wondered why they were (and still are sometimes) treated differently.

2-Look at the above list of what feminist's believe. What do you agree with the most? Why? Do you disagree with any of them? If so, why?

I agree with the feminist's believe.

For the first belief, women were not treated similarly as men, and they would often get paid less. I have also noticed that female products in stores are often more expensive than men's products as well.

For the second belief, women are often expected to be graceful, gentle, weaker than men, etc. They should not be acting similarly to men.

For the third belief, many people are religious, and would believe in how Eve is the origin of sin and death in the world, making people patriarchal.

For the fourth belief, when we are born, our sex is determined; however, as people grow in different environments and cultures, they would think otherwise as they would feel more comfortable in something else other than their determined sex.

For the fifth belief, I think that not all feminist activity has its goal set on equality, as some are just aiming for people to treat women better.

For the sixth belief, I believe that gender issues occur a lot, and we might not always notice it. It occurs in our day to day lives.

3-Which of the "feminist critics ask" questions do you think will be most useful for analyzing *A Doll's House*? Why?

I think the question "How are male and female roles defined?" would be the most useful to analyze *A Doll's House*. Although it is a simple question, it can help to connect to several different aspects in the play, extending our knowledge on how male and females are treated differently, not only in the play, but also now.

4-Which interpretation of *Frankenstein* seems more persuasive to you? Does *Frankenstein* seem like a feminist or patriarchal novel? Why?

The interpretation of *Frankenstein* in slide 41 seems more persuasive to me because it describes the character's behaviors and traits, allowing me to understand more about each character. *Frankenstein* seems like a feminist novel as Mary Shelley's conflicts and experience on patriarchy. The novel also does not invite us to criticize misogyny or gynophobia. This is clearly shown in Victor's murderous rage against the female monster and more subtly suggested by his prolonged avoidance of Elizabeth.

5-To what extent do you think your past English classes (or KAS generally) were patriarchal/feminist? Why?

Patriarchy or feminism is not often shown in school, as everyone is expected to be treated equally; however, sometimes people would assume that guys are stronger than girls.

**The Feminist Lens
(Lesson 3)
I worked with Ethan**

Questions	Answers
<p>Political Cartoon Slide:</p> <p>This is a feminist political cartoon. What do you think the cartoonist is suggesting? In what ways can you connect this cartoon to these slides?</p>	<p>I think the cartoonist is suggesting that men are constantly evolving and getting stronger, while women are not. Women are seen as weaker than men, and would be dependent on men. In the cartoon, it is shown that the evolution of women is just scrubbing the floor, while the image of the man shows their evolution progression. This is biased towards patriarchy as this shows the belief that men are better than women, by their progression.</p>
<p>Christianity Slide:</p> <p>Many feminists consider Christianity, the historically dominant religion of the West, a patriarchal religion. Look up the story of Adam and Eve. In what ways can you connect this story to these slides?</p>	<p>I believe that the story of Adam and Eve portrays women in a lesser light - with Eve shown to be inferior to Adam. With her illustrated as a subordinate that carried all the evil, she was shown to be weak - while causing the demise of Adam.</p>
<p>Women in STEM:</p> <p>I just saw this article in an email from my alma mater, Binghamton University. In what ways can you connect our study of feminism to this statistic?</p>	<p>The number of women in STEM is increasing throughout the years, and this defeats the stereotypes of people thinking that women should not study, get an education, or get a job, and that only men should do that. Although the number of women in STEM only make up 13% of U.S. engineers, and 26% of computer scientists, women are now more encouraged to take part in these programs, increasing the number of women in STEM.</p>
<p>Guerilla Girls Poster:</p> <p>This is a poster made in 1989 by Guerrilla Girls about the art and artists at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In what ways can you connect this poster to these slides?</p>	<p>Through this poster, we can see that there has been a stereotype of women - and even in a renowned museum. With the stigma that women need to be unclothed for them to have beauty, it can be concluded that they are perceived more as an object rather than a human.</p>
<p>The Western Canon:</p> <p>In 1994, critic Harold Bloom released his version of the Western canon. He named 26 writers whom he believes are the most important in Western literature and civilization. Only four of the authors are women (and virtually all are white). In what ways can you</p>	<p>Although there are some women included in the list of writers, there are far more men than women, which shows that either women do not gain enough recognition in their works, or that the critic is more biased towards men. I believe that the list should be more racially diverse, as there are many different writers from different</p>

<p>connect this to these slides? Is this a good list? Or should the canon be more diverse?</p>	<p>races who can be important in Western literature and civilization. With more diversity, there would also be more perspectives from different individuals.</p>
<p>IB Prescribed Reading List:</p> <p>This is the IB Prescribed Reading List. IB required Language and Literature teachers to teach many of the books from this list. Look around the list, looking through some of the different languages. What do you notice? In what ways can you connect it to these slides?</p>	<p>Through the IB prescribed reading list, it can be deducted that there is (roughly) an equal amount of representation, regardless of one's sex. Even with African-speaking languages - whose heritage is dominated by patriarchy - there is still an equal representation with the authors and their writings. This ensures equal opportunity.</p>
<p>Political Power:</p> <p>Open the following infographic. What do you notice about the relative political power of men and women in the US and China? In what ways does this connect to these slides?</p>	<p>Men have more political powers in both the US, and China. China sides more with men, giving women far less political power (some to none). The US sides more with men as well; however, women still have some political power. This might be because people are more biased towards men, as they believe that they should not give women much power to control and implement ideas.</p>
<p>Taiwan:</p> <p>What is an important women's rights issue in Taiwan today? (Go research.) In what ways does it connect to these slides?</p>	<p>In Taiwan, there has been a lack of representation of women's rights. With the patriarchal society and its stigma, it makes it difficult for women to become as successful as men; solely on the basis of sex. Women in Taiwan often end up getting paid up to 75% of what their male counterparts would receive.</p>
<p>Further Reading:</p> <p>This is all just a tip of the iceberg. Spend a few minutes looking at these reading list recommendations. What is at least one book that you would be interested in reading? Why? Copy and paste a picture of the cover.</p>	<p>I would be interested in reading about Asian American Feminisms and Women of Color Politics as I would want to understand how Asians are greatly affected when living in the US, and the struggles that they have faced.</p>