Pre-AP English I
Literature – Literary Criticism
Group Panel Discussion
Project Planning

Complete all steps below. You will turn this in as a group along with your individual written components on the day of the panel discussion. Use this worksheet as a checklist to be sure you are going through a thorough enough process in preparation for your panel discussion.

DAY ONE

___ 1. Decide which critical lens appeals to you. In your group, divide up the roles according to these preferences. There should be only one critic of each type.

   Feminist: ______________________________  Marxist: ______________________________
   Multicultural: ___________________________  Psychoanalytic: ___________________________
   Historical: _____________________________

___ 2. Read your assigned fairy tale. After you’ve read, discuss the story in terms of plot, character, and setting. Identify its structure: Rise, Restoration, Cautionary, or Exemplary. Complete the worksheet “Fairy Tale Overview” together as a group.

___ 3. Re-read your assigned fairy tale through the lens of your given approach. Then, complete the “Critical Perspective” worksheet for your respective critical lens. Each critic must follow three steps (see below). These worksheets will be submitted, so be sure to write legibly and to write in complete sentences.

___ 4. At this point, critics will begin identifying topics that they would like to discuss.

DAY TWO:

___ 1. Critics will decide final discussion questions and give to the teacher.

___ 2. Critics will use the allotted time to practice their responses and to think about the other critical approaches, so that they might pose counterarguments. As a group, work together to find points where critical perspectives cross paths in either agreement or disagreement.

DAY THREE:

___ 1. Come to class prepared, with all necessary documents and in “character”.

___ 2. All presentations will be given on ______________________. If a group member is absent, the whole group will present the next class period when all critics are present. Unless the absence is formally excused, that absent individual will receive a grade penalty.
Fairy Tale Overview
Complete as a group after the first reading of your fairy tale on Day One.

Names: ____________________________________________________________

Fairy Tale Title, Author, and Time Period: ______________________________

Plot Overview: ______________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Main Characters: ______________________________________________________

Setting: __________________________________________________________________

Structure (include how you know): ______________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Other Fairy Tale Elements: _____________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Initial Reactions/Brainstorms/Criticisms: __________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________
Critical Perspective: Feminist

Name: _________________________________    Fairy Tale:____________________________

Feminist Criticism: The ultimate goal is to show how literature challenges or reinforces the structure of patriarchy and its construct of feminine propriety.

Developing a Feminist Critique:

1. Find and list all the female characters in a novel.

2. Examine whether these characters are positive female role models or if they are objects of men. For each character, write 2-3 sentences explaining their role. (Hint: Four stereotypical female roles are caregiver, dutiful woman, sexual woman, non-conformist)

3. Reflect on the strength of each of these characters and their effect on the reader. In 4-5 sentences, explain what message you think your fairy tale sends the reader in regards to the feminist goal stated above.

4. POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS (You will present these to your group on Day Two with these ideas of what you would like to address in regards to your fairy tale based on your critical perspective.)
Critical Perspective: Marxist

Name: ___________________________  Fairy Tale: ___________________________

**Marxist Criticism** began because people were angry with the hidden messages in literature about social status. Marxist critics adopted Marx’s theory that, "people behave and think in society based on economic factors." Rich, educated, high-status white males ran publishing companies, and did not publish things that they didn’t find interesting.

*Goal of Marxist Critics:* to expose hidden messages about social class and power in order to bring awareness to these social issues.

Marxist critics believe that all literature has a very powerful political and moral message.

*Developing a Marxist Critique:*

1. Find and identify the social ladder. Explain with regards to the characters, conflicts, and plot of your fairy tale.

2. Examine and write down why the social ladder is this way (power, money, race, culture, education, skills and experience, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, political beliefs & values, etc.)

3. Reflect on how the portrayal of the social ladder in your fairy tale would affect its readers, and how/why this should or should not be rectified.

4. **POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS** (You will present these to your group on Day Two with these ideas of what you would like to address in regards to your fairy tale based on your critical perspective.)
Critical Perspective: Multi-Cultural

Name: ____________________________________________ Fairy Tale: _________________________________

**Multi-Cultural Criticism:** Race is biological, but culture is environmental. We learn from books, so they can reinforce prejudices. Multi-Cultural critics want us to learn about other cultures correctly. They believe that

* every human being deserves to be treated with integrity.
* educators should teach about multi-cultural authors.
* stories that are truthful about other cultures are celebrated
* stories that have stereotypes or prejudices are identified & discussed

*Developing a Multi-Cultural Critique:*

1. Find and list all of the cultures in the literature, especially minority cultures.

2. Try to see how each culture is portrayed in the text and take notes on your findings. Use textual evidence for support.

3. Comment on stereotypical language and assumptions found in the text.

4. **POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS** (You will present these to your group on Day Two with these ideas of what you would like to address in regards to your fairy tale based on your critical perspective.)
Critical Perspective: Psychoanalytic

Name: _________________________________________________  Fairy Tale: ________________________________

**Psychoanalytic Criticism** comes from Dr. Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis (the earliest form of psychology).

Psychology = the study of the mind, of human psyche. Psychoanalysts believe that human problems can be solved by analyzing the mind. Psychoanalytic critics take Freud’s principles and apply them to literature. They believe that in order to appreciate a text, one must understand human psychology. The goal of psychoanalysis is to decode the psychological or sexual symbolism of literature in order to uncover the author's unconscious obsessions.

Psychoanalysts also look at the psychological motivations of the characters with the story.

**VERY BASIC Principles of Psychoanalysis: Unconscious/Subconscious**

Unconscious= that unknown portion of our mind that drives everything that we do, say, think

Unconscious is made up of: ID, EGO, and SUPER-EGO

ID = The most animalistic, deals with primitive urges and immediate gratification
SUPEREGO = Conscience
EGO = The balance between the other two -- it is rational, logical, and analytical.

**Developing a Psychoanalytic Critique:**

1. Identify and take notes on ID, SUPEREGO, and EGO within the text characters and symbols. Reflect on characters’ motivations for actions with the text.

2. Draw conclusions based on these relationships, or draw conclusions based on character motivations. Write them down and explain your reasoning.

3. Answer the question: What psychological issue might the author be working out via the text? And/or, how does a character represent some psychological idea?

4. **POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS** (You will present these to your group on Day Two with these ideas of what you would like to address in regards to your fairy tale based on your critical perspective.)
Critical Perspective: Historical

Name: ____________________________________________  Fairy Tale: ______________________________

**Historical Criticism:** Historical critics believe that you must understand the historical context in which a text was written in order to appreciate its value.

The goal is to place you in the author's shoes so you can understand why he or she wrote a particular piece.

*Developing a Historical Critique*

1. Identify and note historically what was happening in the author's time—major events, economics, points of view.

2. Identify and note biographical information about the author (birth, upbringing, life, and the portion of life dedicated to writing, death)

3. Make at least three connections between the background information and the text (think about themes, author’s purpose, character motives, conflicts, symbolism, etc.)

4. **POSSIBLE DISCUSSION TOPICS** (You will present these to your group on Day Two with these ideas of what you would like to address in regards to your fairy tale based on your critical perspective.)