

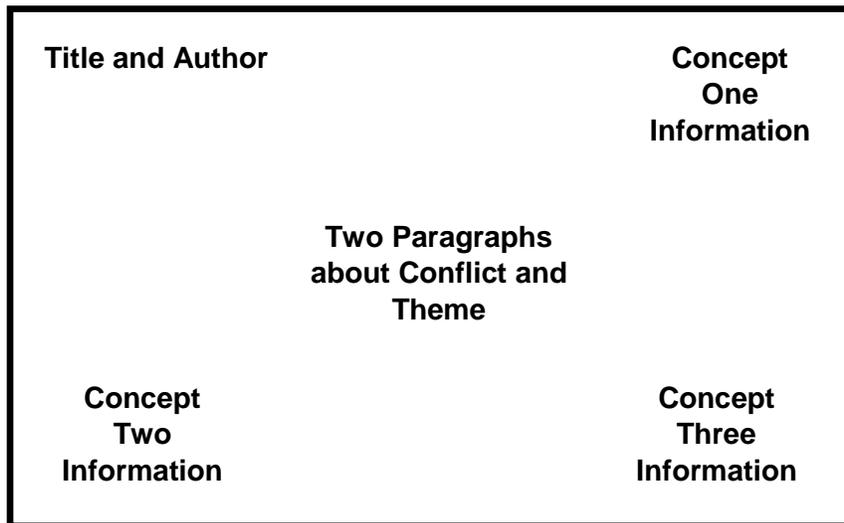
Conflict Project

Complete the following activity with Angela Carter's "The Company of Wolves." You may do this alone or with a partner. This will be recorded as a major grade in the gradebook

Layout and Design (10 points)

1. You will be recording information about three different conflicts on your final copy.
2. You will also be writing two paragraphs about a symbol in the story and how it relates to one of the conflicts. **It is strongly suggested that you complete a rough draft of these paragraphs in order to get feedback from the teacher.**
3. You may lay out this information any way you want, but it should be neat and legible, and each conflict should be clearly separated from the other three.
4. The title of the story and author must be clearly labelled on the final copy.
5. Illustration, decorative borders, and color will improve your grade. Neatness, however, is required of every project.

Sample Layout



Concept One: Id (20 points)

This is the information from the presentation from the last reading:

- Latin: "it"
- The id are the inherited and instinctual components of personality (sex drive and aggressive urges).
- It is impulsive and illogical, with no concern for consequences.
- We bury these urges in the unconscious mind.
- It is too uncomfortable to acknowledge them be-cause they are unacceptable.
- However, the id still drives behavior. We are just unaware of it happening.
- We think we are in control, but this is largely an illusion.
- Without the id, there would be no passion or drive.
- Without some sort of control, people would be indistinguishable from other animals.

Use the example from Bernard Capes' "The Thing in the Forest" as a model for how to record the following information.

1. Explain the important information about this idea using the excerpt from last time and the information from the presentation. Whether or not you include information should be in terms of its importance in understanding Angela Carter's "The Company of Wolves." This should be more than one sentence.
2. Connect this information to "The Company of the Wolves" by explaining how it like one or more plot and/or character elements. This should be more than one sentence.
3. Explain how this idea connects to a conflict in the story. This can be an internal conflict, a person vs. person conflict, a person vs. nature conflict, or a person vs. society conflict. This should be more than one sentence.
4. Record how this conflict resolves or does not resolve in the story and how this resolution relates to the idea of the Freudian Id.
5. Select and record a representative quotation from the story that illustrates some important aspect of the conflict. You can (and probably should) cut the quotation down to a manageable length.
6. Record the big idea that this conflict is communicating. What is this conflict either teaching the reader about life is or should be OR how is it setting up some important idea in the story. This should also include the connection to the idea of the Freudian Id.
7. Transfer this information onto the large paper.

Example from "The Thing in the Forest":

Id: [List the important ideas about this concept that help you to understand the story.]

Connection to Story: Father Ruhl represents the Id in the story. Though at first it might appear that he represents the Super-Ego (since he is a priest), in the story epitomizes sinfulness and man's beastly nature by virtue of his being a werewolf. This is true because once he transforms to a wolf, he cannot control his impulses or hunger.

Connection to Conflict: This idea is related to Elspet's internal conflict in the story. Though she is obviously not a werewolf herself, she struggles against sinfulness, and this is what the werewolf represents: a sinfulness that Elspet tries to reject. Specifically, she understands her kindness to the werewolf as a sin, since it aids a sinner whom God has chosen to punish. In Elspet's mind, this is disobedience to God.

Resolution: The werewolf attempts to kill Elspet in the village church, but God spares her this fate because her earlier actions had embodied kindness and mercy. Thus, they were not really sinful at all. In this way, the supremacy of the Super-Ego (God's will) over the Id (sinfulness) is demonstrated, since it is his power that prevails.

Representative Quote: "In that time of twilight [Father Ruhl's] face was already changing, narrowing, becoming wolfish-- the eyes rounded and the jaw slavered. [Elspet] gasped, and shrunk back; and at that, barking and snapping at the grating, with a wicked look he dropped-- and she heard him coming" (3).

Big Idea: People must strive to overcome their animal nature (the Id), since it is sinful and antithetical to God's will (the Super-Ego). So long as one makes this effort, God will protect and comfort the individual in times of stress.

Concept Two: Ego (20 points)

This is the information from the presentation from the last reading:

- The ego is who we perceive ourselves to be.
- It is the conscious part of the mind that comprises our self-identity.
- It reconciles the desires of the id to the realities of the external world.
- It is logical, but utterly selfish and amoral.
- Instead of trying to satisfy desires right now, it tries to maximize happiness in the long term.

- The ego seeks interaction with others within socially acceptable roles.
- It is very sensitive to praise and criticism.

Use the example from Bernard Capes’ “The Thing in the Forest” as a model for how to record the following information.

1. Explain the important information about this idea using the excerpt from last time and the information from the presentation. Whether or not you include information should be in terms of its importance in understanding Angela Carter’s “The Company of Wolves.” This should be more than one sentence.
2. Connect this information to “The Company of the Wolves” by explaining how it like one or more plot and/or character elements. This should be more than one sentence.
3. Explain how this idea connects to a conflict in the story. This can be an internal conflict, a person vs. person conflict, a person vs. nature conflict, or a person vs. society conflict. This should be more than one sentence.
4. Record how this conflict resolves or does not resolve in the story and how this resolution relates to the idea of the Freudian Ego.
5. Select and record a representative quotation from the story that illustrates some important aspect of the conflict. You can (and probably should) cut the quotation down to a manageable length.
6. Record the big idea that this conflict is communicating. What is this conflict either teaching the reader about life is or should be OR how is it setting up some important idea in the story. This should also include the connection to the idea of the Freudian Ego.
7. Transfer this information onto the large paper.

Example from “The Thing in the Forest”:

Ego: [List the important ideas about this concept that help you to understand the story.]

Connection to Story: Elspet knows she should not help the werewolf, but she does it anyway. She puts her own desires first and attempts to rationalize them to herself. In this way, she sympathizes with sin (the animal nature of the wolf) without actively giving in to what it represents. Instead she compromises by aiding sin, like the Ego attempts to achieve the desires of the Id in a realistic manner.

Connection to Conflict: This idea is related to Elspet’s internal conflict in the story. The hunger of the wolf is like people’s hunger for sin. Though Elspet does not actively join the werewolf in the hunt, she nonetheless aids the thing she should reject by feeding it. In this way she enables sin, causing her guilt.

Resolution: Her guilt can only be purged by repenting and confessing her sin. This sets up the final confrontation with Father Ruhl, who turns out to be the werewolf of her earlier encounter. However, even though she had understood her actions to be an egotistical rejection of God’s will, her intentions had been pure, so God spares her life. In psychological terms,

Representative Quote: “[The werewolf] had sinned [...] but she was a woman, very blest, very happy, in her store of comforts and her surety of love. She knew that it was forbidden to succour these damned and nameless outcasts, to help or sympathize with them in any way. But—[...] who need ever know or tell?” (2).

Big Idea: Understanding God’s will is difficult, but so long as one’s intentions are pure, God will help guide individuals to the correct path. However, one must be humble and submissive in order to access this divine favor.

Concept Three: Super-Ego (20 points)

This is the information from the presentation from the last reading:

- The super-ego incorporates the values and morals of society which are learnt from one’s parents and other authorities.

- The super-ego's function is to control the id's impulses, especially those which society forbids, such as sex and aggression.
- The super-ego also has the function of persuading the ego to turn to moral goals, rather than simply realistic ones, and to strive for perfection.
- If the ego gives in to id demands, the super-ego may make the person feel bad though guilt (conscience).
- In addition to punishing through guilt, the super-ego can reward when we behave "properly" by making us feel proud.
- The super-ego maintains societal norms.
- Like the id, the super-ego is irrational. Nothing short of perfection is good enough.
- Without the super-ego, however, we would be utterly selfish and uncaring about the feelings of others.

Use the example from Bernard Capes' "The Thing in the Forest" as a model for how to record the following information.

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2. Connect this information to "The Company of the Wolves" by explaining how it like one or more plot and/or character elements. This should be more than one sentence.
3. Explain how this idea connects to a conflict in the story. This can be an internal conflict, a person vs. person conflict, a person vs. nature conflict, or a person vs. society conflict. This should be more than one sentence.
4. Record how this conflict resolves or does not resolve in the story and how this resolution relates to the idea of the Freudian Super-Ego.
5. Select and record a representative quotation from the story that illustrates some important aspect of the conflict. You can (and probably should) cut the quotation down to a manageable length.
6. Record the big idea that this conflict is communicating. What is this conflict either teaching the reader about life is or should be OR how is it setting up some important idea in the story. This should also include the connection to the idea of the Freudian Super-Ego.
7. Transfer this information onto the large paper.

Example from "The Thing in the Forest":

Super-Ego: [List the important ideas about this concept that help you to understand the story.]

Connection to Story: The Super-Ego represents the store of societal standards embodied in law and moral codes. Here, it manifests in the Christian religious ideal, represented by the stone statue of the Virgin Mary-- explicitly associated in the story with the idea of kindness to others. This Biblical commandment becomes both the thing that causes conflict, and the means by which the conflict is resolved.

Connection to Conflict: The Super-Ego is key to understanding Elspet's internal conflict. Having internalized the religious norms of obedience to God's will, Elspet feels guilty when she judges herself to have fallen short of the ideal. Rather than deferring to her own moral judgement, she sees right and wrong in terms of a religious standard that she can never achieve. Specifically, she cannot both be kind to strangers *and* refuse to aid a sinner. Even though she adheres to the spirit of God's law, she disobeys the letter, resulting in her going back to the church to confess her sins.

Resolution: By the same token, though, the story suggests that it is this spirit of the law that God values, since the statue (Our Lady of *Succour*) is the means by which Elspet is delivered from harm. The kindness of the Virgin is clearly related to the kindness of Elspet, both aiding someone in need-- Elspet by having fed the wolf and the Virgin by having crushed the werewolf through the toppling of the statue. In this way, God's will is reaffirmed, and the supremacy of the Super-Ego as the proper guide to action is established.

Representative Quote: “[Elspet] paused a moment at the foot of the slope, undecided about entering the little chill, silent [church] building and making her plea for protection to the great battered stone image of Our Lady of Succour which stood within by the confessional box” (1).

Big Idea: God’s providence provides for those who submit to his will. Make the attempt to fulfill his dictates, and God will protect you.

Paragraphs (40 points)

Use the example from Bernard Capes’ “The Thing in the Forest” as a model for how to write the two paragraphs.

1. Choose either Id, Ego, or Super-Ego.
2. Write one paragraph in which you connect this idea to what you consider to be the primary conflict in the story. This should have evidence both in the form of paraphrase (the information about Freudian psychology) and quotation (evidence from “The Company of Wolves”).
3. Write a second paragraph that connects the resolution of a conflict to a theme in the work. This should include a quotation from “The Company of Wolves.” This paragraph should be focused much more on the story than the ideas from Freud.
4. If you are doing this right, you should be able to draw a lot of your analysis from work you’ve already done in this project.
5. Show these paragraphs to your instructor for revision suggestions.
6. Transfer the paragraphs onto the large paper.
7. If you are working with a partner, each person is responsible for one paragraph apiece.

Example from “The Thing in the Forest”:

Topic Sentence/s: One or two sentences that establishes what you are going to prove. → Elspet, the protagonist in Bernard Capes’ “The Thing in the Forest,” is concerned mainly with aligning her life according to the religious ideals of her society. When she fails to live up to these standards, she feels guilty, an internal conflict. For example, when she first encounters the werewolf in the forest, she recognizes that “it had sinned” (2). As such, she interprets the creature’s bestial status as evidence of God’s disfavor, making it forbidden for her to offer succor. However, overcome with pity, she feeds the werewolf nonetheless. For Freud, such religious commands are the essence of the Super-Ego, the part of the psychical personality that represents societal and cultural norms. As such, it is the internalized authority that creates guilt in individuals when they fail to live up to those norms. This is precisely what happens in the story when Elspet cannot reconcile her desire to be kind to others (also a religious commandment) with a perceived directive to reject sin (by not aiding the werewolf). This results in guilt and her ultimate journey to the village church in order to confess her sin to Father Ruhl. In this way, the Super-Ego demands remorse when the Ego acts in a way contrary to its dictates, creating the internal conflict.

Set up the evidence (quotation) so that a reader understands your argument, even without having read the story. →

Evidence can be a mixture of paraphrase and quotation, but part of it must include a quote →

Part of your explanation needs to be connecting the conflict to an idea from Freud. After it should be an explanation of what the Freudian idea means. Do not use quotation in this part. →

Finish with the rest of your analysis of the conflict that your evidence established. →

Try to sum up your argument in a sentence or two. →

Topic Sentence/s: One or two sentences that establishes what you are going to prove. → This conflict, in turn, helps to reveal one of the story’s central themes through its resolution: how humbling oneself before God’s will results in divine protection. For instance, as

Set up the evidence (quotation) so that a reader understands your argument, even without having read the story.

Evidence can be a mixture of paraphrase and quotation, but part of it must include a quote

The explanation here has to connect with how the conflict and a theme in the story. This can be tricky, so make sure you are being clear when explaining your thinking.

Sum up with a statement of theme. What idea is the story trying to communicate to the reader about the nature of the world?

Elspet enters the church to confess her sin, she asks mercy of the statue of the Virgin Mary, saying, "Mother, forgive, and save me" (2). By asking for aid from an incarnation of Mary explicitly identified as "Our Lady of Succour," Elspet acknowledges her mortal weakness in the face of divine grace, thus earning her the Virgin's protection. As a result, when Father Ruhl transforms into the wolf at the end of story, it is this same statue which crushes the false priest and allows for Elspet's survival. Just as she had taken pity on the wolf at the beginning of the story, so the Virgin takes pity on her and provides the necessary aid in Elspet's time of need. Even the "sin" itself was a sin born of Elspet's generosity of spirit that embodied the Biblical imperative to help those who most need support, and the fact that this act is rewarded in the end suggests that perhaps God values the charitable impulse more than a technical adherence to the law. Either way, it is Elspet's humility before a greater power that spares her life, as God protects those who approach him with an open heart.

If you are doing this with a partner, each person should contribute one paragraph. Do not be partners with someone who isn't willing to do his or her fair share of the work.