

Worksheet 2 – Fireworks

Review: Lecture 1: Introduction

Which fairytale inspired 'The Tiger's Bride' and 'The Courtship of Mr Lyon'?

Recall: Lecture 2: Fireworks

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. What TWO terms does Dr Stoddart use to describe *The Bloody Chamber*?
a) Short story cycle c) Short story sequence
b) Short story collection d) Short story compilation
2. What is the main theme of the first paragraph of the first story?
a) Transition c) Sexuality
b) Enlightenment d) Childhood
3. According to Dr Stoddart, all the stories in the collection involve some kind of _____?
a) Escape c) Entrapment
b) Journey d) Revenge
4. According to Dr Stoddart, what does the word 'quietude' suggest?
a) Peace c) Boredom
b) Contentment d) Prison
5. What are the TWO most common colours in the stories?
a) White c) Black
b) Red d) Purple

Analysis

6. In the lecture, Dr Stoddart says that "escape and entrapment are part of an essential dynamic in this collection." To what extent do you agree? Is one – escape or entrapment – more important than the other? Write at least two PEE / PEA paragraphs outlining your views.

Evaluation

7. Read the five critical quotations on 'The Bloody Chamber' below. Rank them 1-5, 1 being the quotation you agree with the most, 5 being the least. Write a few sentences on each justifying your rankings.

Kari E Lokke: "The Bloody Chamber is a lush celebration of the heroine's vitality, sensuality, eagerness for adventure, and love of experience."

Jeff Vandermeer: "Carter's characters are forever escaping socially, mentally and physically, the traps laid by men."

Patricia Dunker: “The ending of ‘The Bloody Chamber’ carries an uncompromisingly feminist message” while all of the other tales in the collection “merely recapitulate patriarchal patterns of behaviour.”

Mankinen: “Carter’s work has consistently dealt with representations of the physical abuse of women... but she is also interested in women who grab their sexuality and fight back, and become troubled by or empowered by their own violence.”

Karen Seago: “the inclusion of violence as part of female sexuality is liberating... we should praise Carter for her complex view of female desire which explodes the stereotype of women as passive and demure ciphers.”

Glossary

- **Trope** – A significant or recurring theme; a motif.
e.g. Terror and horror are common tropes in Gothic fiction.
- **Stasis** – A period or state of inactivity or equilibrium.
e.g. The Covid pandemic plunged the country into economic stasis.
- **Abstract** – Existing as a thought or idea but not having any physical or concrete existence.
e.g. Love and beauty are abstract concepts.
- **Cipher** – A hidden message or code.
e.g. He couldn’t work out the cryptic ciphers written in the notebook.