

Worksheet 3 – The Lady of the House of Love

Review: Lecture 2: Fireworks

What perspective is 'The Bloody Chamber' written from?

Recall: Lecture 3: The Lady of the House of Love

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

1. What TWO stories act as inspirations for 'The Lady of the House of Love'?
 - a) Cinderella
 - b) Sleeping Beauty
 - c) Dracula
 - d) Alice in Wonderland
2. How is it implied the young man will die?
 - a) Illness
 - b) Suicide
 - c) World War 1
 - d) World War 2
3. What is the young man symbolized by?
 - a) The red rose
 - b) His bicycle
 - c) His uniform
 - d) His virginity
4. The vampires is a "hapless victim of _____"?
 - a) Inbreeding
 - b) Incest
 - c) Adultery
 - d) Her ancestors

Analysis

5. Below are five quotations describing the vampiress in 'The Lady of the House of Love.' Annotate each one, looking for language and structural techniques that Carter is using to portray the lady, and briefly note their effects.
 - a) "Now all shun the village below the château in which the beautiful somnambulist helplessly perpetuates her ancestral crimes."
 - b) "And she is herself a cave full of echoes, she is a system of repetitions, she is a closed circuit."
 - c) "the perennial sadness of a girl who is both death and the maiden"
 - d) "The waxen fingers of the Countess... turn up the card called L'Amoureux. Never, never before... never before has the Countess cast herself a fate involving L'Amoureux. She shakes, she trembles, her great eyes close beneath her finely veined, nervously throbbing eyelids..."
 - e) "And could love free me from the shadows? Can a bird sing only the song it knows?"

Evaluation

6. Another inspiration for this story is Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*. Below is an extract from Dickens' novel, in which the protagonist (Pip) meets Miss Havisham for the first time. What similarities can you find between Miss Havisham and the Countess? How does this extract also use Gothic tropes? Write at least 2 PEE / PEA paragraphs explaining your views.

Whether I should have made out this object so soon, if there had been no fine lady sitting at it, I cannot say. In an arm-chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen, or shall ever see. She was dressed in rich materials - satins, and lace, and silks - all of white. Her shoes were white. And she had a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling on the table. Dresses, less splendid than the dress she wore, and half-packed trunks, were scattered about. She had not quite finished dressing, for she had but one shoe on - the other was on the table near her hand - her veil was but half arranged, her watch and chain were not put on, and some lace for her bosom lay with those trinkets, and with her handkerchief, and gloves, and some flowers, and a prayer-book, all confusedly heaped about the dressing table mirror. I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its brightness, and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress she wore, and like the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes. I saw that the dress had been put upon the rounded figure of a young woman, and that the figure upon which it now hung loose, had shrunk to skin and bone. Once, I had been taken to one of our old marsh churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress, that had been dug out of a vault under the church pavement. Now, that skeleton seemed to have dark eyes that moved and looked at

Glossary

- **Harbinger** – A person or thing that announces the approach of another.
e.g. Daffodils are often seen as harbingers of spring.
- **Banal** – Obvious, boring, or lacking in originality.
e.g. The camp leader told another banal story to the class.
- **Tarot cards** – A pack of playing cards with various symbolic illustrations, used to predict the future.
e.g. The fortune teller used a crystal ball, palm readings and Tarot cards.
- **Endorsement** – Support or approval of something.
e.g. The businessman had his investors' full endorsement.
- **Atrocious** – Horrifying; wicked.
e.g. He would go to jail for a long time for his atrocious crimes.

