

Worksheet 5 – Critical Debates

Review: Lecture 4: The Tiger's Bride

In 'The Tiger's Bride', why must Beauty go to the Beast?

Recall: Lecture 5: Critical Debates

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

1. Who wrote the musical 'Into The Woods', which intertwines the plot of several fairytales by the Brothers Grimm?
a) Leonard Bernstein c) Scott Joplin
b) Danny Elfman d) Stephen Sondheim
2. Which TWO books also influenced *The Bloody Chamber*?
a) Bruno Bettelheim's 'Uses of Enchantment' c) Jack Zipes' 'The Irresistible Fairytale'
b) Nicholas Jubber's 'The Fairytellers' d) Jack Zipes' 'Breaking The Magic Spell'
3. Who argued that there was something intrinsically conservative and misogynistic about fairytales?
a) Margaret Atwood c) Marina Warner
b) Patricia Duncker d) Maureen Corrigan
4. Complete this quotation by the above critic: "Carter is rewriting the tales within the _____ of their original structures."
a) Shackles c) Manacles
b) Straightjacket d) Constraints

Analysis

5. Look at these pictures by artist Paula Rego (who Dr Stoddart mentions in the lecture): <http://visualarts.britishcouncil.org/collection/portfolios/nursery-rhymes> You may in particular want to look at 'Little Miss Muffett', 'Baa Baa Black Sheep' and 'Goosey Goosey Gander.' How does Rego illustrate these nursery rhymes? How does she show their darker, more subversive side? Can you see any similarities between themes in these pictures and themes in *The Bloody Chamber*?

Evaluation

6. In the lecture, Dr Stoddart explores the notion that we are still "complicit in the male violence and misogyny that is depicted in the original version of the fairytales", and quotes from Patricia Duncker, who says that Carter "reproduces rather than alters the original, deeply and rigidly sexist psychology" of the tales. Do you agree? Why / why not?
7. Dr Stoddart also refers to Margaret Atwood, who says that the tales "celebrate relativity and metamorphosis" and are more interested in the "link between victim and aggressor, which is not defined in terms of one gender or another necessarily." Do you agree? Why / why not?
8. Dr Stoddart also says that some critics have found "the eroticism of violence" in the stories "deeply unsettling." Do you agree? Why / why not?

Glossary

- **Repressed** – Restrained or oppressed; in psychology refers to a thought or desire that is kept suppressed and unconscious in one's mind.
e.g. Freud believed that dreams were a way of tapping into your repressed feelings.
- **Paradigm** – A pattern or model.
e.g. 'The Angel in the House' is a paradigm of the 'ideal woman.'
- **Latent** – Hidden or concealed.
e.g. Underneath his casual attitude lay a latent talent.
- **Complicit** – Involved with others in something that is unlawful or morally wrong.
e.g. He was complicit in the cover up of the murder.
- **Misogyny** – Dislike or hatred of women; an ingrained prejudice against women.
e.g. Feminists argue that we must do everything we can to tackle misogyny.