

Worksheet 1 – Angela Carter

Recall

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

1. What type of genre does Prof. Mulvey-Roberts categorise *The Bloody Chamber* as?
 - a) Science fiction
 - b) Historical fiction
 - c) Crime fiction
 - d) Gothic fiction
2. Carter translated the works of which 17th-century French writer of fairy tales?
 - a) Charles Perrault
 - b) Charles Sorel
 - c) Paul Scarron
 - d) Jean de Lannel
3. What literary genre are most of the stories in *The Bloody Chamber* based on?
 - a) Medieval Romance
 - b) Fairy Tales
 - c) Epic poetry
 - d) Parables
4. Which of the following stories does NOT form the basis for one of the stories in *The Bloody Chamber*?
 - a) Beauty and the Beast
 - b) Little Red Riding Hood
 - c) Hansel and Gretel
 - d) Snow White

Analysis

5. In the lecture [4.57-5.03], Professor Mulvey-Roberts explains how some of the stories in *The Bloody Chamber* can be categorised as “wolf stories” that subvert the well-known fairytale, “Little Red Riding Hood”. Read the summary of the original fairytale and analyse how the protagonist and/or storyline has been changed in each version, and what this may imply.

Make sure you give reasons in the table for why you have made these inferences. Some examples have been completed for you.

Little Red Riding Hood (Perrault version)

A little girl walks through the woods to deliver food to her sickly grandmother. A wolf she meets in the forest then goes to the grandmother's house and swallows the grandmother whole. He waits for the girl, disguised as the grandmother. When the girl arrives, the wolf jumps out of the bed and eats her, too.

1. The Werewolf

The grandmother is a werewolf, who is then killed and Red ends up with a large inheritance.

2. The Company of Wolves

Red meets a strange hunter who she immediately likes. The hunter makes a wager with her about who can get to her grandmother's house the fastest. If she loses, then he'll kiss her –

she wants the kiss so she lets him win. However, when he reaches the house he eats the grandmother. When the girl arrives and finds her grandmother dead, the hunter threatens to kill her too, but she is unfazed, and seduces the hunter.

3. Wolf-Alice

A feral lupine child is left in a house with a Duke who is a werewolf in an attempt by nuns to civilize her. Though the werewolf is dangerous, through an act of compassion the female is able to help him find his humanity.

	The Werewolf	The Company of Wolves	Wolf-Alice
<u>What parts of the plot remain the same as Perrault's original?</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The story features a grandmother and a wolf. 2. The grandmother dies. 3. There is a granddaughter figure associated with the colour red. 		
<u>Which parts of the plot are a departure from Perrault's original?</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The grandmother and the wolf are the same person. 2. The granddaughter survives at the end of the story. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.
<u>What is the significance of this change?</u>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2.

Evaluation

6. Re-read the extract from the ending of "The Tiger's Bride" which is referenced by Prof. Mulvey-Roberts as a passage which encapsulates the theme and purpose of the novel. Answer the question below.

He dragged himself closer and closer to me, until I felt the harsh velvet of his head against my hand, then a tongue, abrasive as sandpaper. 'He will lick the skin off me!'

And each stroke of his tongue ripped off skin after successive skin, all the skins of a life in the world, and left behind a nascent patina of shining hairs. My earrings turned back to water and trickled down my shoulders; I shrugged the drops off my beautiful fur.

How does Carter use imagery to convey the idea of freedom from constraints?

You might consider:

- The characterisation of the “Tiger”
- The narrative perspective
- How Carter uses other language features in the passage (e.g. alliteration, listing, short sentences, narrative voice).

You can use the sentence starters below to help you structure an analytical paragraph:

The ending of “The Tiger’s Bride” by Angela Carter conveys the idea of freedom by...

Carter utilises...

For instance...

In particular, the verb/adjective/noun _____ implies...

This supports Carter’s intention to...

Challenge: Challenge: Research the ending of the original fairy tale written by French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve (1740) and consider why Carter made these changes, in order to support your answer.

https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Beauty_and_the_Beast

Glossary

- **subvert (verb)** – [in the context of literary criticism] to challenge or undermine a conventional idea, form, genre, etc. by using or presenting it in a new or unorthodox way.
e.g. Buffy the Vampire Slayer simultaneously embraces and subverts the conventions of the horror subgenre.
- **Magic realism (literary genre)** – a literary or artistic genre in which realistic techniques such as naturalistic detail are combined with surreal or dreamlike elements.
- **Feminism (noun)** – advocacy of the equality of the sexes and the establishment of the political, social and economic rights of the female sex.
- **Postmodernism (noun)** – [in relation to the arts, literature, etc.] an artistic approach characterised by a rejection of ideology and theory in favour of a plurality of values and techniques.
- **folk-tale (noun)** – a tale or legend originating and traditional among a people or folk, especially one forming part of the oral tradition.
e.g. Folk-tales are passed down from generation to generation.
- **nascent (adjective)** – in the act or condition of coming into existence; beginning to form, grow, develop, etc.
e.g. Online dating has gone from a nascent idea to an established concept
- **patina (noun)** – a surface appearance of something grown beautiful especially with age or use
e.g. There was a patina of ice on which the soloist skated

- **interchangeability (noun)** – an object or idea that is capable of being put or used in the place of another.
e.g. The ingredients in the recipe has a degree of interchangeability
- **raucous (adjective)**– unpleasantly loud, or behaving in a noisy and disorderly way
e.g. The football fans in the crowd were raucous
- **reformulation (noun)**– a reworking or improvement of the original plan or idea
e.g. With a little reformulation, the function of the machine would be better.