

Worksheet 7 – Angela Carter

Review: Lecture 6

In Lecture 6, Prof. Mulvey-Roberts explains how Carter's story "Wolf-Alice" alludes to at least three, different stories. Name two of these stories

- 1.
- 2.

Recall

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

1. Prof. Mulvey-Roberts claims that Carter probably preferred the Gothic form due to what aspect of Gothic Literature?
 - a) Lack of realism
 - b) Use of dialogue
 - c) Length of stories
 - d) Restricted form
2. Which of the following genres best describes "The Bloody Chamber"?
 - a) Comedy
 - b) Gothic
 - c) Bildungsroman
 - d) Picaresque
3. Prof. Mulvey-Roberts notes that Carter's work has very limited use of which literary element?
 - a) dialogue
 - b) description
 - c) foreshadowing
 - d) juxtaposition
4. Complete the following direct quote from Angela Carter herself: "I always think first in _____, then grope for the words."
 - a) music
 - b) images
 - c) paragraphs
 - d) sentences

Analysis

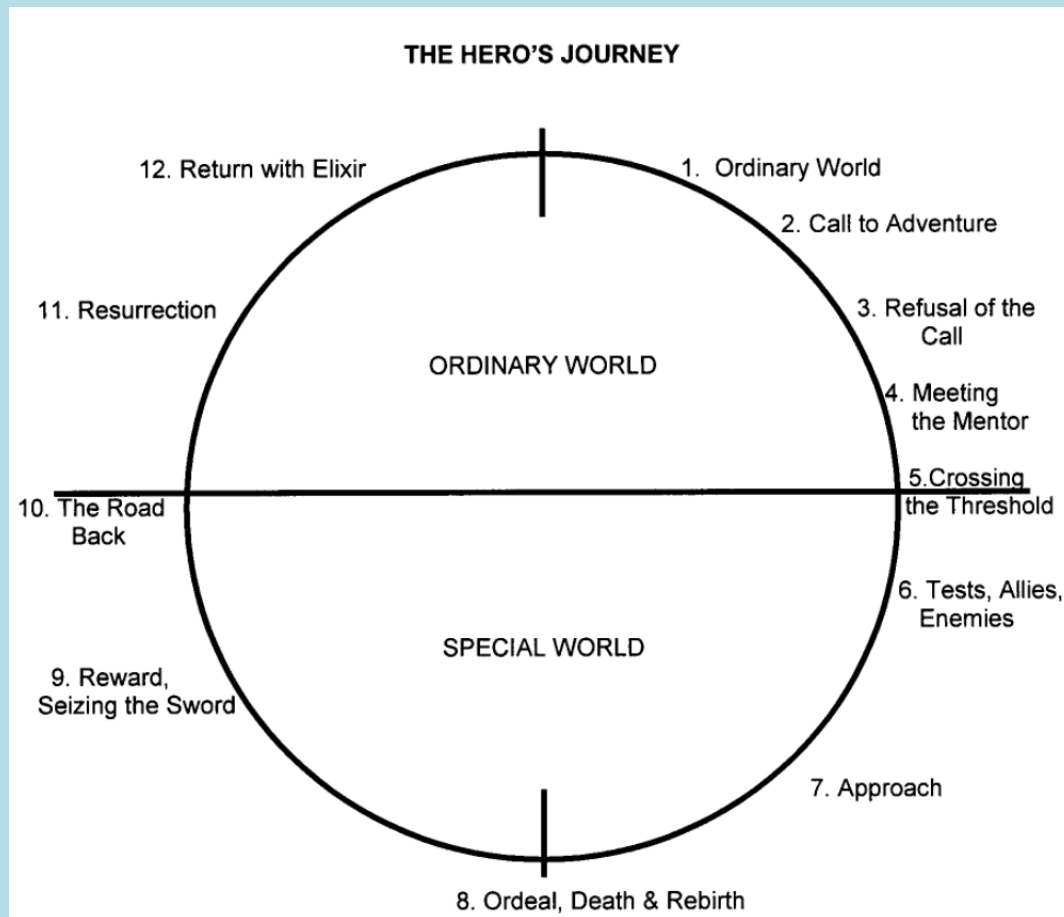
5. In all of the stories within "The Bloody Chamber" collection, the protagonists experience a 'rite of passage' by which children are separated from the world they are familiar with and follow an unfamiliar path that leads to adulthood. This is not a new concept; many fairy tales also follow this structure. However, they are usually not written from the female's perspective, since the female is not usually considered the "hero" of the story.

Consider the following diagram depicting an archetypal "hero's journey" and the quotations taken from "The Bloody Chamber". Match the quotations with a stage from the diagram that it could represent as the heroine transitions from child to adult. Be careful - since Carter is subverting many traditional tropes, the stages may not match the quotation or

events exactly. Choose the “best fit” and then justify your ideas in the final column. Some examples have been filled in for you.

Use this blog post to help you understand the stages in more detail:

<https://blog.reedsy.com/guide/story-structure/heros-journey/>



Source: <https://poetryprofcom.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/the-heros-journey-template.gif>

Quotation	Stage	Stage
“My satin nightdress... had slipped over my young girl’s pointed breasts and shoulders...”	Call to adventure	
“I tenderly imagined how... my mother would be moving slowly about the narrow bedroom I had left behind...”	Crossing the threshold	The protagonist is reflecting her transition from the safety of her childhood bedroom in the “ordinary world” into the “special world” of marriage and sex with the Marquis
“Nothing in my life... had		

prepared me for these grown up games.”		
“He kissed my eyes, and, mimicking the new bride newly wakened, I flung my arms around him...”		
“I had been infinitely dishevelled by the loss of my virginity.”		
“The evidence of that bloody chamber had showed me I could expect no mercy.”		
“Until that moment, this spoiled child did not know she had inherited nerves and a will from the mother who defied the yellow outlaws of Indo-China.”		

Evaluation

6. Whilst many of the female characters subvert traditional gender roles as represented in literature, there is one male character named Jean-Yves in the story of “The Bloody Chamber” who subverts masculine gender roles. Write a paragraph answering the following question:

How does the character of Jean Yves subvert traditional representations of masculinity in literature?

You might consider:

- How is is not the rescuer of the protagonist (the mother is)
- How he falls in love with the protagonist’s musical talents; not her appearance
- How he is characterised as a blind man, incapable of physically seeing the protagonist
- How he compares to male characters within this, and in the other stories in the collection

Challenge: Find out about ‘The Male Gaze’ by reading these articles, the first of which is by Janice Moreck from Monash University. Try to decide what are the constituents of the Male Gaze and how this character subverts these ideas:

<https://www.filminquiry.com/film-theory-basics-laura-mulvey-male-gaze-theory/>

Glossary

- **taboo (noun)** – a social or religious custom prohibiting or restricting a particular practice or forbidding association with a particular person, place, or thing.
- **transgression (noun)** – an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct
- **endeavours (verb)** – to attempt (something, such as the fulfillment of an obligation) by exertion of effort
- **labyrinth** – a complicated irregular network of passages or paths in which it is difficult to find one's way; a maze.
- **Realism (noun)** – [in relation to the arts, literature, etc.] works such as paintings, films or novels that aim to represent life as it truly is
- **springboard** – something that provides you either with the opportunity to follow a particular plan of action, or the encouragement that is needed to make it successful