

Worksheet 5 – The Uncanny

Review: Lecture 4: Degeneration

Which work by Charles Darwin introduced the concept of evolution?

Recall: Lecture 5: The Uncanny

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

1. When was Freud's essay 'The Uncanny' published?
a) 1916 c) 1918
b) 1917 d) 1919
2. Which of these is NOT an example of the uncanny Dr Pittard gives?
a) Identical twins c) Your hair standing on end
b) Odd coincidences d) Realistic dolls
3. Freud said that the uncanny is 'the return of the _____'?
a) Repressed c) Subconscious
b) Revenant d) Unconscious
4. What does the German word 'unheimlich' mean?
a) Unhappy c) Unfortunate
b) Unhomely d) Undesirable
5. Which of these is an example of the uncanny in the novel?
a) Hyde's face c) Lanyon's letter
b) Utterson's dreams d) Jekyll's serum

Analysis

6. Based on your own knowledge and what you have learnt in the lecture, define the 'uncanny' in your own words.
7. In the lecture [12:00] Dr Pittard said that Hyde 'is a blank canvas unto which all who observe him can project their own unconscious wishes and desires in their own uncanny fashion.' Do you agree? Why / why not? Try to write your answer as a PEE / PEA paragraph.

Evaluation

8. Below are five quotations from Freud's essay on the uncanny. Rank them 1 – 5, with 1 being the most relevant to *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and 5 being the least relevant. Now write a few sentences on each, justifying your decision.
 - a. 'We are tempted to conclude that what is uncanny is frightening precisely because it is not known and familiar.'
 - b. 'The subject of the uncanny is undoubtedly related to what is frightening; to what arouses dread and horror... it tends to coincide with what excites fear in general.'

- c. 'Uncanniness is associated with the phenomenon of the double... the double has become a thing of terror.'
- d. 'The uncanny effect of epilepsy and of madness has the same origin. The ordinary person sees in them the workings of forces hitherto unsuspected in his fellow-man, but which at the same time he is dimly aware of in a remote corner of his own being.'
- e. 'Concerning the factors of silence, solitude and darkness, we can only say that they are actually elements in the production of that infantile morbid anxiety from which the majority of human beings have never become quite free.'

Glossary

- **Psychoanalysis** – A type of psychological theory and therapy which aims to treat mental disorders by exploring the interaction of the conscious and unconscious elements of the mind.
e.g. Sigmund Freud is known as the father of psychoanalysis.
- **Transgression** – An act that goes against a law, rule or code of conduct; a common trope in Gothic literature.
e.g. The teacher was shocked at her student's latest transgression.
- **Deja vu** – A French phrase that means a strange feeling of having already experienced a situation.
e.g. As she drove through the town she had the strongest feeling of déjà vu.
- **Tripartite** – Made up of three parts.
e.g. The book had three parts and therefore could be called a tripartite novel.
- **Id** – According to Freud, the subconscious part of the mind where your most basic, instinctive impulses are located.
e.g. Freud believed that talking therapies could help people get in touch with their Id.
- **Juggernaut** – A powerful, overwhelming force; can also refer to a heavy vehicle.
e.g. The body builder was built like a juggernaut.
- **Harpy** – A mythological creature with a woman's head and body but with a bird's wings and claws; can also be used as a term for a loud, shrewish woman.
e.g. The woman was known as an awful old harpy.