English 9

Archetypal Analysis

Major Project (100 points total)

Assignment:

* You will be writing a 3 or more page analysis of the archetypes in a story of your choice
* You will examine how the story in a book, movie, TV show, video game, etc., uses recurring character types/images that are in many stories (going as far back as *The Odyssey* and before).

Requirements:

* Your paper needs to be in MLA format: Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double-spaced. Last name and page number at the top right. The paper needs to be at least 3 pages (bottom of 3rd page) to count for full credit. Expect to go over the page count depending on topic.
* You may write about 1-3 archetypes in the story of your choice. You may write 3 pages all one on archetype if it’s very important/interesting to you or divide your attention with 2/3
* For each archetype you choose to write about, explain briefly the archetype itself, the parts of the story you’re using as examples of the archetype, and how those parts fit the archetype. You can also choose to write about parts where the story *subverts* and rejects the archetype.
* Works cited entry and any sources you use while researching/writing the paper (even if you don’t directly quote them and just paraphrase them). No in-text citations needed unless you are specifying a page number.
* As long as it’s a 3 pg. paper about 1-3 archetypes in a story you like, the rest is up to you how you go about this. Stay on topic and make it your own. ☺ Dig into a story you already enjoy, so you appreciate it even more.

Tips:

* Pick a story you know very well or are very interested in, so the paper is actually fun
* Avoid summarizing the story itself more than you need to—only explain what’s important for discussing how the author(s)/story uses the archetypes
* Balance explaining the story and the archetypes itself with the more important and more interesting piece of *how* and *why* the story uses archetypes the way it does
* Use the Internet to look more intro tropes and archetypes you want to know more about—in many cases, you’ll find articles/pages/videos talking about tropes/archetypes specifically in your story, and those can be great resources! (make sure to make it your own work too!)

How it’s being graded:

* Total: 100 points
* Intro = 10
  + Open by giving basic information on the story you’ve chosen
  + Thesis: Preview your 1-3 archetypes (in order you’re discussing them) and say in the same sentence why those are three your picking
    - Ex. The story uses hero and villain archetypes in order to appeal to a wide, general audience.
    - Ex. The story subverts the damsel in distress by having the woman save the man.
    - Ex. Through her use of the quest, monster, and underworld archetypes, the author tells a story that shows the hero’s weaknesses and eventual growth.
  + Writing is clear, organized, and relevant to the topic—no 1st person
* Body = 40
  + Explain the archetype(s) you’re discussing well
  + Explain the scenes from the story well
  + Explain the connections between the archetypes and the story well
  + Explain *how* and *why* the archetypes are used this way
  + Writing is clear, organized, and relevant to the topic—no 1st person
* Conclusion = 10
  + Include recap of what you’ve discussed in the paper (rephrase the thesis at the start of the conclusion)
  + End by clarifying why this story’s use of archetypes is important
  + Writing is clear, organized, and relevant to the topic—no 1st person
* Grammar / conventions = 30
  + Correct sentences (no fragments/run-ons)
  + Pay special attention to your vs. you’re, to vs. too vs. two, there vs. their vs. they’re, me vs. I, italicizing vs. quotation marks for titles, good vs. well, and was vs. were.
* MLA formatting = 10 points
  + 12 pt. Times New Roman, double-spaced
  + Info on top left (Your name, class, teacher name, date), title centered, last name + page number on top right
  + MLA works cited citation for story and sources quoted/paraphrased
  + **Essay may not be graded if credit is not given to all sources used.**