**PART 3: TEXTS & CONTEXTS *TEXT*:** IB DP Language & Literature

*LOOKING AT A TEXT THROUGH CRITICAL APPROACHES*

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| LENS/CRITICAL APPROACH | NOTES ON THE TEXT |
| **FORMALIST**   * Literary elements (plot, characters, conflicts, themes, setting) * Stylistic elements (figurative language: imagery, symbolism, metaphor; diction, syntax) |  |
| **NARRATOR & NARRATIVE STRUCTURE**   * Single narrator? POV? * What is lost/gained/   omitted?   * Chronological? Non-chronological? Why? * Flashbacks, flash-forwards, cyclical, fragmented? * Effects of narrator on reader – bias? |  |
| **BIOGRAPHICAL**  The author’s life & times   * Background, culture, triumphs and challenges * Main concerns * Life events and how they influenced the author’s writing (parallels, differences) |  |
| **HISTORICAL/POLITICAL/**  **CULTURAL**   * a text in relation to its socio-historical or cultural backdrop * What was going on politically and historically during the time the text was written and/or set? * often similar to biographical; overlap |  |
| **UNIVERSALITY/TIMELESSNESS**  **(ARCHETYPAL)**   * literature as a window to meaning of life * characters as timeless * universal elements of life across cultures * how are these characters/events universal and/or timeless? Where/when do they come from and recur? Why? |  |
| **PSYCHOLOGICAL**   * understanding what drives and motivates characters * latent desires and values * Freud (Id, Ego, Superego) |  |
| **GENDER/FEMINISM**   * how & why are men and women presented? Who is marginalized? Who gets a voice? Who doesn’t? Why? * women’s & men’s perspectives and roles in the text – are roles prescribed? Inequalities? |  |
| **MARXISM**   * power – who has it? How is this clear? Why? * class differences, economical and other * implications and complications of economic systems * oppression of lower class – who is oppressed? Why? How? |  |