**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)
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| **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?
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| **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)
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| **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
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| **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?
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| **PSYCHOLOGICAL*** understanding what drives and motivates characters
* latent desires and values
* Freud (Id, Ego, Superego)
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| **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?
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| **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?
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