

Teaching Literary Theories Handout

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1 Introduction

This handout presents various literary theories and criticisms. The theories are explained in simple words and examples are provided for every theory.

2 Reader Response

lowest economic class. For example: Everyone who works an ordinary 9-5.

3 Marxism

Marxism is a literary criticism which focuses on the differences between classes of the society. Those differences are in the economic and status level. Karl Marx divides the society to three different levels:

1. **Aristocracy**- This category are the traditional kings and queens. They have power from possessing land and rule the other categories. For example: Queen Elizabeth II.
2. **Bourgeoisie**- The bourgeoisie are the working class of the society. The social order is dominated by capitalism. They control the means of production. E.g.: The owner of Apple Inc.
3. **Proletariat**- The lowest ranked working class. The proletariat are industrial workers who sell their labor to live. They do not have any production methods. They are considered to be the

The lens focuses on the power dynamics between the classes and how they operate together. A marxist critic would identify the class of each character and how it affects their beliefs, actions and characteristics. The base of the society are the methods of production of products and services, where the superstructure is the values generated from the base.

4 Feminism

5 Postcolonial

6 Mythological

7 Psychoanalytic- Jung

8 Psychoanalytic- Freud