

Homework #2

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Course: *Honors English 2* – Teacher: *Ms. Briery*

Due date: *Mar 11 by 11:59pm*

1. Guide to New Historicism and Cultural Studies

- (a) What in the text indicates historical events?
In the beginning of the story, it says that the migration west.
- (b) What in the text would not fit in a different time period?
When Murlock was going to bury his wife without letting his friends, family, etc know, without having a doctor around for miles, him having to create the coffin, etc, would only fit in a time period that didn't have any communication system.
- (c) What in the text indicates the beliefs and values of the author?
When he referred to the process as a "sacred duty" probably indicates that he was religious.

2. Guide to Feminist Criticism

- (a) What in the text concerns women or marriage?
"In that eastern country whence he came he had married, as was the fashion, a young woman in all ways worthy of his honest devotion, who shared the dangers and privations of his lot with a willing spirit and light heart."
- (b) What in the text indicates the writer is male or female?
The author says that he was a "well-informed boy", which implies that he's a male.
- (c) What in the text indicates assumptions about women and female roles in society?
The text says that Murlock's wife shared the dangers and privations of his lot with a willing spirit and light heart. That means that women back on those days had to agree with everything that their husband said or did, regardless if they really agree or not.

3. Guide to Psychoanalytic Criticism

- (a) What in the text explains what the main character is thinking?
"She is dead, of course, but it is all right", means that Murlock was saddened by his wife's death, but he thought everything was going to be alright.
- (b) What in the text might be symbolic of underlying feelings or thoughts?
The author said that he tried to stay strong after her death by repeating that everything is going to be alright over and over.
- (c) What in the text depends on irrational fears or beliefs?
"He tried vainly to speak the dead woman's name, vainly to stretch forth his hand across the table to learn if she were there."