

Vr293SU20 Chinese American Literature

Prof. Andrew Yang
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Share some of your responses to the text:

- Be prepared to talk about *what* you found engaging – which part, and why.
- Be prepared to talk about *which* part you might have found slow or difficult, ie: page numbers, chapter. Try to describe why you stopped at that part, or why you found that part forgettable, maybe read ahead to another part.

Do share contrasting perspectives within your group. This is healthy, in fact beneficial. **The objective of this exercise is not to come to an agreement on the text in your group.**

- Story
- Character
 - Motive
 - Obstacle
 - Action
- Setting
 - Description
 - Imagery
- Event (Action Cycle)
 - Conflict

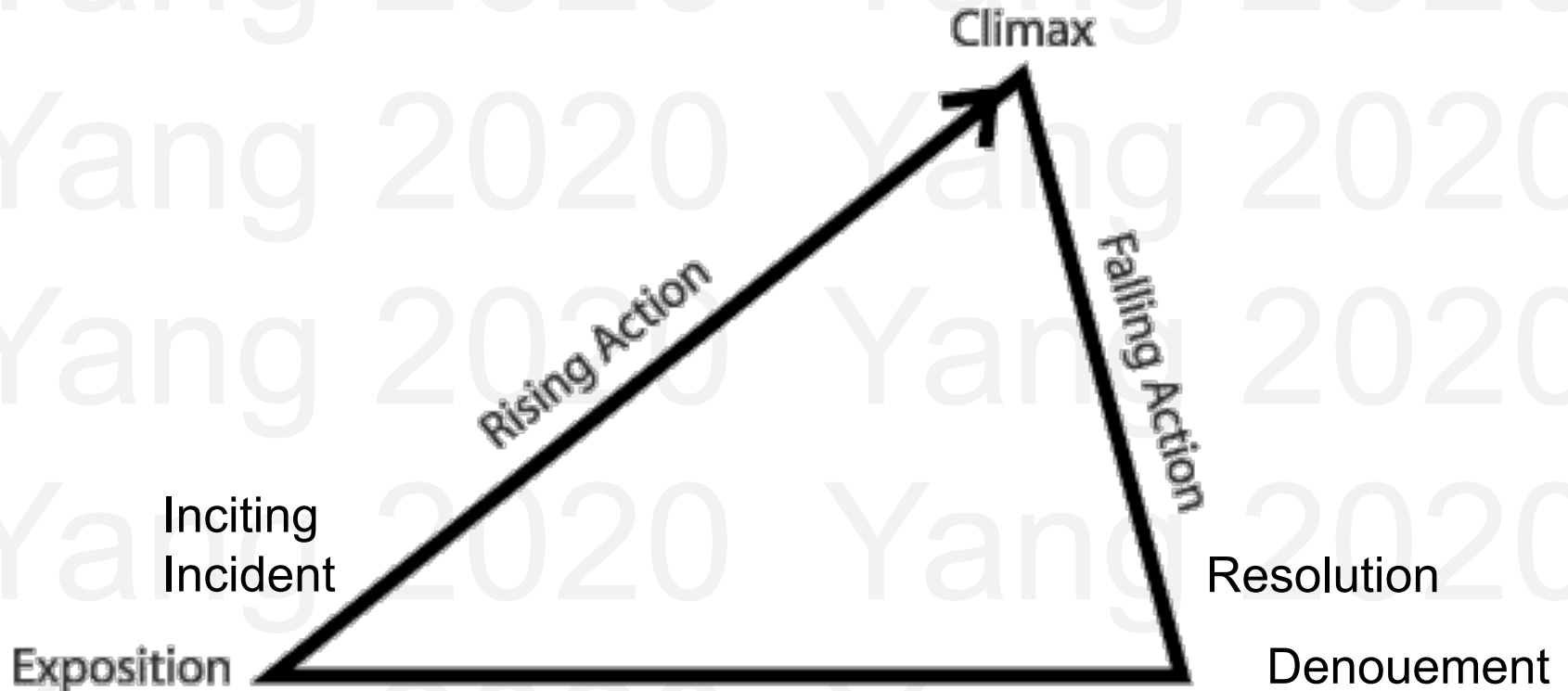
ethnic identity
formation

denotation

connotation

- context
- reader's
experience
- impressions
feeling

Freytag's Pyramid



secret, dangerous in text.
ppl. in my family can't know.
Whenever wants to know, can't see. (25)

Father (WR)

• Connotation: "Gold Mountain"

(3) Mother afraid

Mother

Y tu on "temple"

Grandmother

When they come by USA, she asks "which one is GM"?

praying in yard of protection

Marco Polo

wrote about East

San Fran.

symbol to find fortune, exaggeration

gold everywhere

Jiv Full

now for E. to go W.

asking W. to go E. to find fortune

Wonder what is meaning ref. of GM? maybe just place.

location impression of city/Americans

More Questions to Consider

1. Exactly what are Moon Shadow's obstacles to reaching "Gold Mountain"? How might these obstacles shape the overall story of *Dragonwings*?
2. How are "the demons" a source of conflict?
3. Describe the act of kite flying – how it feels, why people like it, the art & practice, anything.
 - Why does Moon Shadow associate his father with kite flying? What does it say about Windrider? What does it say about Moon Shadow? Their dreams and expectations?







- 1) Draw a floor plan and illustrations for the building of the Company of the Peach Garden Vow. Describe the functions of each of its important rooms for the company – in terms of function *and* aesthetics for its denizens.
- 2) Draw the dinner and/or the following gift-giving session Moonshadow has with the Company. Make sure you include each of its main members – Uncle, Windrider, Black Dog, etc., and that each character is distinguishable by their main features.

3) Write a letter from Moonshadow to his mother during his first years (1903-1904; ch. IV) at San Francisco. You *can* use Chinese, but you *must* provide an English translation as well. If you choose to originally write in Chinese, consider using traditional characters (繁体字)!

Note:

- 1) his Mother has never been to the United States
- 2) Moonshadow and many other characters in *Dragonwings* usually think and speak in Chinese, but the text of *Dragonwings* itself is all English – it's *translated*.

4) Create a mini-story of one of Black Dog's trips to the opium dens *from the perspective of Black Dog*. Why is he there? What is he escaping *from*? What does he remember? What might he *be trying to forget*?

- Even though the text and multiple characters position opium as a *problem*, consider how, from an addict's perspective, opium is a means of *escape*.

5) You are one of the “demons” of San Francisco witnessing Moonshadow on his errands (see page 71). Write a letter to your husband, wife, or classmate of what you observed.

- You’re just a passer-by; you don’t know Windrider, Moonshadow, Uncle Bright Star or any of the other characters in *Dragonwings*.
- Take into account the many perceptions the “demons” have toward the Tang up to this point in *Dragonwings* when creating “your” perspective – are you a bully? Someone curious? Someone trying to help him? Someone *trying* to ignore him?
- Consider how “your” perspective might contrast with Moonshadow’s own the perspective in the text.

6) Write the brief tale of Windrider's past life – the otherworldly prequel to *Dragonwings* from long ago!

- Think carefully about *what* he did to be punished and born again as a human, but also *why* he did it. Was he dissatisfied with anything, or trying to right any wrong?
- Write in the first person, from Windrider's point of view.