**Individual Film Analysis Essay DUE DATE: August 8th, 2021**

**THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF MOTHERS IN PARANORMAL FILM**

For this assignment you are tasked with the analysis of meaning behind mothers or mothering as a symbol.

Symbols denote concepts (liberty, peace, etc.) and feelings (hate, love, etc.) that they often have nothing to do with. They are used liberally in both literature and film, and finding them uses a similar process. Ask yourself for example:

* What objects or images are repeated in multiple instances to depict mothers?
* How are these symbols or signs used to construct characters? How do they relate to the relative role of those characters, or the relationships between multiple characters?

**HERE IS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW SYMBOLS ARE USED:**

In *Frozen* Elsa’s gloves appear in multiple scenes.

In what context do they appear?

Her gloves are first given to her by her father to restrain her magic. She continues to wear them throughout the coronation scene, before finally, in the Let It Go sequence, she throws them away.

Again, the method of semiotic analysis in film is similar to that of literature. Think about the deeper meaning behind objects or actions.

What might Elsa’s gloves represent?

Elsa’s gloves represent fear of her magic and, by extension, herself. Though she attempts to contain her magic by hiding her hands within gloves and denying part of her identity, she eventually abandons the gloves in a quest for self-acceptance.

**ESSAY INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. You must purchase the journal article titled: *Of Milk and Honey: Artemis Ephesia and Symbolic Bodies of Mother Goddesses* which can be found here: <https://imaenad.com/> **click on the lines above MENU and scroll to where you can order the article. You will receive online access to the article within 24hrs.**
2. Choose a film you think relates to this article (any film using the theme of mothers, or has a major mother figure in it, will work here. The film “The Others” is a great example, as well as “Carrie”)
3. Write a 750 word essay in which you analyze the mother symbol, signs or motifs that can be seen in both the article and the film you selected.
4. Your essay must have a thesis and at least 3 evidence paragraphs (you can have more if you like)
5. You must cite/quote from the film and the article using APA or MLA style.
6. You must then submit your essay through BB by the due date.

**Marking Scheme:** This rubric gives you a rough idea of the skills evaluated in this assignment and theweight given to them.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Skill** |  | **Expectation** | **Value** |
| **course content** | | Work makes effective use of theoretical and historical detail from course | **/4** |
|  |  | readings and the lectures |  |
| **comprehension** | | Work demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter and core terms used | **/4** |
|  |  | in the scholarly article and story |  |
| **creativity** |  | Work develops ideas in ways that do not simply repeat those from the reading | **/4** |
|  |  | and story, either through criticizing these points, extending them to reach new |  |
|  |  | conclusions, or through applying them to the author’s own lived experiences |  |
| **composition** | | Ideas in the essay are organized logically, proper sentence and paragraph | **/4** |
|  |  | structure, accurate spelling |  |
| **referencing** | | Research materials are properly referenced within the body of the text - footnote | **/4** |
|  |  | or parenthetical - and within a works cited or bibliography page |  |
| **TOTAL:** | **/20** |  |  |