

Literary lens analysis chart

Complete this chart for your chosen short story or stories. A sample answer for the reader response lens has been provided for the fairy tale “Cinderella.”

	Reader response lens	Biographical/ Historical lens	Psychological lens	Gender lens
Short story	“Cinderella” by The Brothers Grimm			
What aspects or events of the story would you apply this lens to?	It’s a fairy tale that many people recognize and has already had multiple interpretations in popular media; it’s a story meant to teach a lesson, so individual responses are part of that – did the reader learn the lesson or not?			
Select a quotation related to one of these aspects or events and explain its meaning from the perspective of the lens.	“And so they were condemned to go blind for the rest of their days because of their wickedness and falsehood ...”			

	<p>Explanation: Using the reader-response lens, I think that this means that the main idea of the story is that cruelty will be punished with cruelty.</p>			
<p>As you look at the story from this lens, what questions emerge?</p>	<p>What are the other ways to look at this story? How would the reader's own family experiences be reflected in the interpretation? What beliefs and biases do I bring to my understanding of the story?</p>			

Do you think this lens adds to your understanding of the story? Why or why not?	Yes, it does because it highlights how my own experiences help me to explain why certain characters act the ways they do. For example, why are the stepsisters cruel – are they just mean or do they not know how to respond to jealousy?			
Are there any voices that have been ignored when this lens is used? Explain.	The voice of the Prince is not clearly articulated in the story when using this lens.			
How has using this lens to examine the character(s) in the story shaped your understanding of what it means to be resilient?	Using the reader-response lens makes me believe that Cinderella is a resilient character. She does not give up when faced with setbacks.			