

# **AP Literature Study Guide**

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## **Unit 1: Short Fiction I**

### **Terminology**

- **Metaphor:** a comparison between two ideas or things, without using “like” or “as”
- **Simile:** a comparison between two ideas or things, using “like” or “as”
- **Personification:** when nonhuman objects, things, or animals are given human qualities
- **Irony:** a contrast between expectation and reality
- **Diction:** word choice
- **Tone:** a writer’s attitude towards what they want to convey to the reader
- **Imagery:** language that enhances the five senses
- **Theme:** the main idea that is explored and is constantly present in the text
- **Critical Lenses**
  - **Feminist/Gender:** concerned with the ways literature portrays Western feminism in a patriarchal society; may be ethnocentric.
  - **Queer:** calls for a critique of heterosexuality; grounded in gender and sexuality.
  - **Marxist:** based on the theories of Karl Marx (communist); reveals the ways in which societal hierarchy influences the experiences of people.
  - **Psychoanalytic:** based on the theories of psychology of Sigmund Freud; focuses on how the unconscious mind (the feelings, thoughts, urges, and memories outside of conscious awareness) influences events, especially childhood. Mainly revolves around the unconscious, desires, and defenses.
  - **Post Colonial:** concerned with literature produced by colonial powers and works produced by people who were/are colonized. Focuses on power distribution, economics, politics, and culture.

### **Importance Of A Quest:**

- Any story should have a **quest**:
  - Quester
  - Place to go
  - Stated reason to go there
  - Challenges and trials on route
  - Real reason to go there
- Readers should not get stuck on whether their analysis of literature is correct or not
- “**Always**” and “**never**” do not have a concrete meaning within the language of reading

### **Communion:**

- Eating or drinking is considered **communion**
  - It is the act of sharing and peace
  - May include situations where there is irony, tension, and conflict between characters
- **Death** is always present

### **Dark Symbolism:**

- **Vampirism**
  - Considered as evil
  - Can represent:
    - Sex or seduction
    - Selfishness
    - Exploitation
    - Corruption
- **Ghosts**
  - Convey and/or deliver a message to other characters
  - It teaches a lesson
    - For instance, a ghost could come back to haunt an antagonist, or it can warn or protect a character
  - Symbolizes various aspects of our common reality

### **Intertextuality:**

- The ongoing interaction between poems or stories
- There is **NO** such thing as a “wholly original work of literature”
- There is only one story; stories grow out of other stories
- We makes **comparisons** and **parallels**
  - For example, the **Holy Bible** has numerous stories and themes, and it is considered one of the original stories that has influenced literature.

### **Shakespeare:**

- **William Shakespeare** was an English playwright who wrote plays like “Romeo and Juliet” and “Othello”. He is considered one of the most influential people in literature
  - Literature is influenced by/ has evolved from Shakespeare
  - Every age and every writer reinvents its own Shakespeare
- Provides a figure against whom writers can struggle; a source of texts against which other texts can bounce ideas off of

### **The Importance Of Religion (Christianity):**

- English is frequently about religion, especially the Bible
- The **Bible** offers:
  - Enriching motifs
  - Characters
  - Themes
  - Plots
  - Titles
  - Quotations
  - Irony