

Mythology Study Guide

Part 6 – Folklore and Myth, pp. 641-645

How are fairytales/folktales related to myths?

What impact can fairytales/folktales told as bedtime stories have?

What is Bettelheim's position regarding "toned down" fairy tales?

Identify key differences between myths and fairytales.

Who is Stith Thompson and what is his contribution to the study of fairytales? What is his definition of a motif?

Who is Vladimir Propp? How does he categorize fairy tales?

Chapter 36 – Theory: The Morphology of the Folktale, pp. 647-664

SUGGESTION: WHEN LOOKING AT THE TERMS DISCUSSED IN THIS VERY TECHNICAL CHAPTER, TRY TO DEVELOP A PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THEM BY ASSIGNING ELEMENTS FROM STORIES YOU KNOW TO THE TERM.

Know the following terms: *dramatis personae*, spheres, absentation, preparatory part, reconnaissance, interdiction, complicity, mediation, connective incident, spatial transference, branding, liquidation, movies, difficult task, transfiguration

Why do folktales belong to the world of mythology?

How does Propp employ the term "function" in his analysis? How are they labeled?

What makes a plot/point or event a function?

How are "spheres of action" distributed among characters?

What is the donor cycle?

Why is logic important in Proppian analysis?

How does Propp define a hero of a fairy tale?

What does the symbol "X" designate in Proppian structural analysis?

How many functions are identified?

How are functions arranged?