


Module 10: Conflicting Ideologies

Topic 4 Content: Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Introduction

Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Introduction



Click the notes on the bulletin board to examine the elements of the Modernist short story in further detail.

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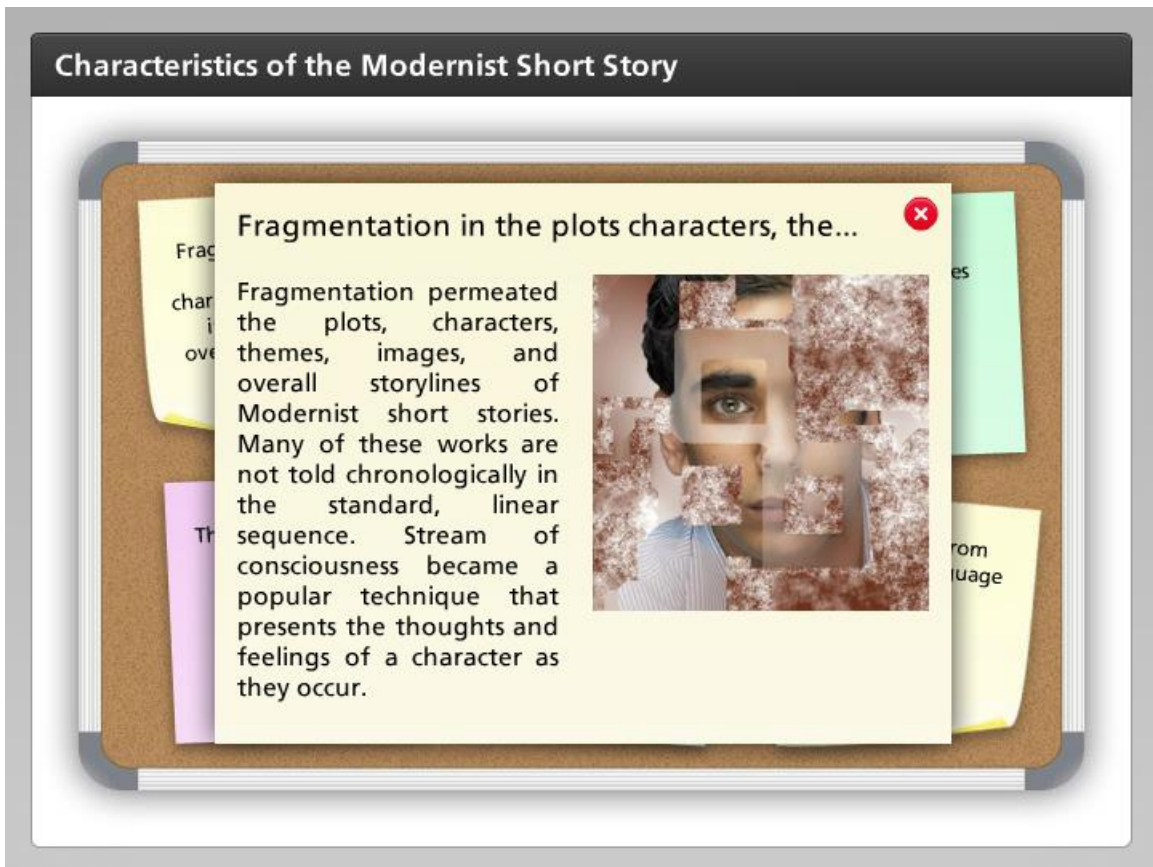
rom
uage

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Topic 4 Content: Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Fragmentation in the plots characters, themes, images, and overall storylines



Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Fragmentation in the plots characters, the...

Fragmentation permeated the plots, characters, themes, images, and overall storylines of Modernist short stories. Many of these works are not told chronologically in the standard, linear sequence. Stream of consciousness became a popular technique that presents the thoughts and feelings of a character as they occur.

The image shows a corkboard with a central note and a fragmented portrait of a man's face. The portrait is composed of many small, overlapping, semi-transparent images of the same man's face, creating a collage effect. The corkboard also has several other sticky notes in various colors (yellow, green, purple) with some text visible, such as 'Frag', 'char', 'ov', 'Th', 'rom', and 'luage'.

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Themes of loss and destruction

Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Themes of loss and destruction

Loss and destruction are important themes in Modernist short stories. Loss of trust, love, family, wealth, and status are common motifs. Destruction of the family unit and religious beliefs are also typical of this genre.



The image shows a hand holding a small amount of sand, symbolizing loss and destruction. The hand is positioned in the center of the slide, with the sand falling from the fingers. The background is a dark blue gradient.

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The idea that truth is questionable

Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

The idea that truth is questionable

The narrator cannot be counted on to tell the truth. Authority figures within the story are often presented as untrustworthy as well.



The image shows a person standing in a field, holding an umbrella, under a dark, stormy sky. The person is silhouetted against the lighter sky. The field is filled with tall grass. The image is part of a presentation slide titled 'Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story' with a sub-heading 'The idea that truth is questionable'. The slide also contains text explaining that the narrator cannot be counted on to tell the truth and that authority figures are often untrustworthy.

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Reversal of traditional roles

Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Reversal of traditional roles

Reversal of traditional roles may involve women performing "male" duties, children forced into adult roles or situations, and even the changing of traditional racial roles.



The image shows a corkboard with several sticky notes. The central note is light green and contains the text 'Reversal of traditional roles' and a paragraph explaining that this reversal may involve women performing 'male' duties, children being forced into adult roles, and changes in traditional racial roles. To the right of the text is a photograph of two hands, one from above and one from below, holding a red, cylindrical object against a blue sky with white clouds. Other sticky notes are visible in the background, with fragments of text like 'Frag', 'char', 'i', 'ove', 'Th', 'rom', and 'uage'.

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Use of deliberate ambiguity

The graphic is titled "Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story" and is presented as a corkboard. A central white note with a red close button in the top right corner is titled "Use of deliberate ambiguity". The text on the note reads: "Ambiguity plays a prominent role in the Modernist short story. Characters may be presented with little or no physical description. The setting could be more than just the setting, or there could be no setting at all. Endings are left unresolved, leaving the reader with more questions." To the right of the text is a photograph of a vast desert landscape with rolling sand dunes under a cloudy sky. The corkboard also has several other sticky notes: a yellow one on the left with the words "Frag", "char", and "ove"; a green one on the right with "es"; and a yellow one at the bottom right with "rom" and "uage".

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Deviation from standard language

Characteristics of the Modernist Short Story

Deviation from standard language

Modernist authors did not hesitate to violate or break down the standards of proper language and grammar to reflect the realistic dialects of the people.

DIALECT
S L A N G L O L
J K I M H O

Modernist authors did not hesitate to violate or break down the standards of proper language and grammar to reflect the realistic dialects of the people.