

21W.758 Genre Fiction - Instructor's Notes by Shariann Lewitt

Class 4

Structures, Secrets, Sayers – Playing by the Rules Revealing Information

Characters must change and grow

(Why episodic tv isn't as "good" as arc of story)

Short story - the moment of a single realization/revelation

Longer work - more full change or changes/realization.

Every person has secrets.

most people's secrets are "stupid" - i.e. other people don't care so much.

But we care about our secrets.

While the central plot revolves around

"What does the character want?"

there is Always "What is the character hiding?"

Two stories - in mystery, but more subtly in All Genre:

The story today of uncovering →

The hidden secrets of the past

There is always a past -

okay - what are the stories is Sayers?

Lord Wimsey's Story

The Rector's Story

Will's Story (and Mary's) Thoday's

The story in the past-

Deacon's story

The emeralds

Cranton's Story

Suzanne's story

The revelations -

The bells in the chamber (the sound)

Mary Thoday had been married to Deacon (who was presumed deceased)

Was the story satisfying? Why?

We have all the information

When did you put it together?

What were the central pieces?

Literature vs genre

inward examination of middle class suburbia vs. archetypical outward directional action as metaphor

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21W.758 Genre Fiction Workshop
Spring 2013

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