

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

Class 5

World Building

trope vs. cliché

trope - (dictionary.com)
“a significant or recurrent theme”

a significant or recurrent permission
assumption
free pass of the genre
FTL
magic
complicated murder

cliché - overuse betrays lack of original thought

purpose of storytelling

Redemption
Meaning

[looking in (not required)] while
ACTING OUT - Genre

Genre and fanfic - dangers and uses

In YOUR genre -
list 2 tropes &
list 2 clichés

Storytelling seems innate to humanity - in all cultures what we tell stories about, and how, differs, but we all DO –

Impose Meaning & Pattern

Search for Redemption

Central trope of Action/Adventure

Campbell's Hero Journey → Inward/Outward

Hero's Call - Refusal

Oracle

Guardian on the Threshold

(must fight)

- die and go to death

- defeat and go alive to shadow

tests and opposition

“magical” aid/helpers

reward! mystical marriage
forbidden knowledge
steals “elixir”

return

save the world

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