

# Principles of Literary Criticism

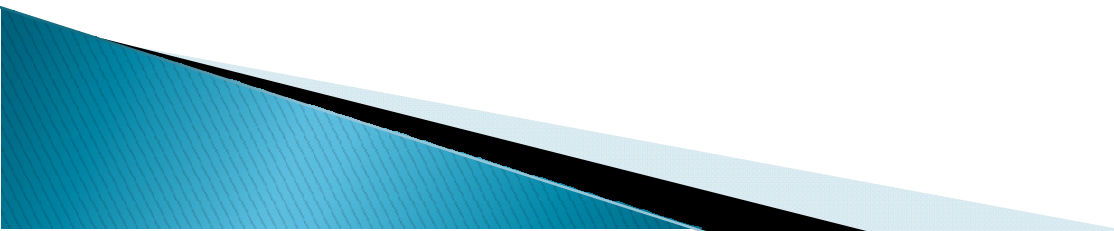
Northrop Frye: The Archetypes of Literature



# Types of Archetypal Criticism

- ▶ Formalistic of Structural
- ▶ (Pattern of the text)
- ▶ Historical Criticism
- ▶ (Background of the text)

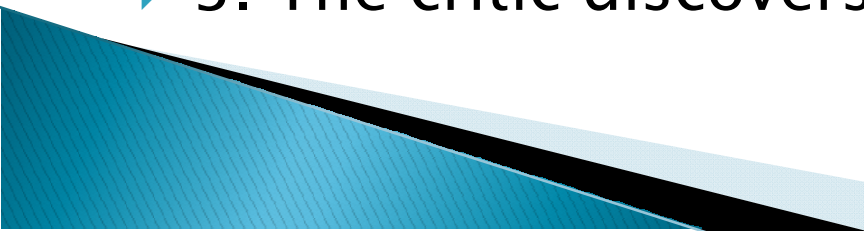
# Categories of Literary Criticism

- ▶ Science – different branches
  - ▶ 1) Renaissance Period
  - ▶ i) Physics– a) matter b) natural forces of universe
  - ▶ ii) Astronomy
  - ▶ 2) Chemistry – 18<sup>th</sup> century
  - ▶ 3) Biology – 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - ▶ 4) Social Science – 20<sup>th</sup> Century
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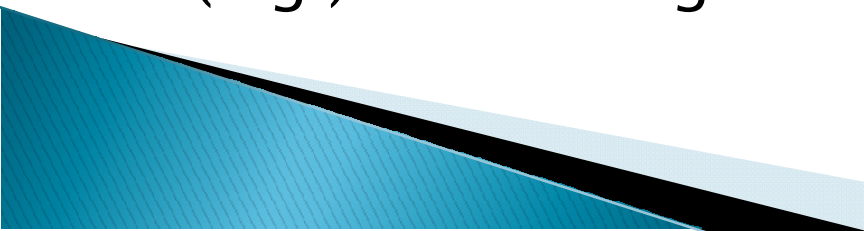
# Method of analysis

- ▶ Systematic analysis
- ▶ A work can be analysed
  - ▶ i) critically
  - ▶ ii) scientifically evaluated
- ▶ Tools of criticism
  - ▶ i) structural
  - ▶ ii) historical

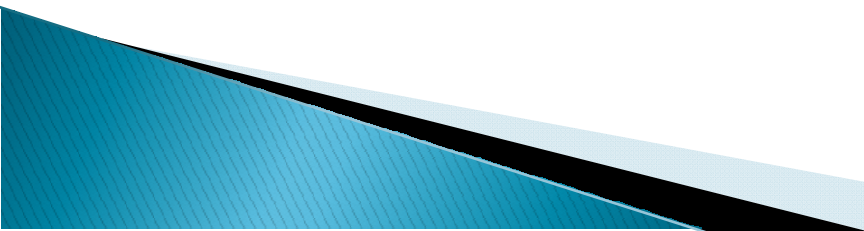
# Inductive Method of Analysis

- ▶ Particular to General
  - ▶ Othello's jealousy leads affliction. Affliction leads to destruction
  - ▶ Jealousy is always destructive
  - ▶ There is no subjectivity. It is objective and psychological
  - ▶ 1. The reader understands the personal symbol, images and myths
  - ▶ 2. The author unconsciously brings in the myths and symbols
  - ▶ 3. The critic discovers these
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# Historical Criticism and Inductive Analysis

- ▶ Birth of the text – outcome of social, cultural demands of the society of that particular milieu
  - ▶ Historical critic understands the text better
  - ▶ Structural & Historical criticism are important for archetypal criticism
  - ▶ Historical critic discovers common symbols & images used by different writers
  - ▶ (e.g.) Sea –common symbol –archetypal symbol
  - ▶ Like symbols, images and myths, genres are archetypal
  - ▶ (e.g.) drama originates from Greek religion
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# The Collective Unconscious or Racial Memory

- ▶ Archetypal criticism analyses symbols, images, rituals and mythologies which have their origin in primitive myths, rituals, folk-lore and cultures
  - ▶ According to Jung, these lie buried in the “collective unconscious” or “racial memory”
  - ▶ Writer is a part of a race reflects in his works
  - ▶ While explaining the text, the critic moves from the particular to the general truth
  - ▶ A particular symbol or myth leads to the establishment of a general truth
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# Deductive method of Analysis

- ▶ General truth to Particular
- ▶ Literature – 1. Rhythm 2. Pattern
- ▶ Literature – 1. music 2. painting
- ▶ Rhythm refers to music–it should keep up time (temporal)
- ▶ Pattern refers to painting –it needs space (spatial)
- ▶ Rhythms & Patterns – recurrence of images, forms and words
- ▶ Rhythm in Literature – narratives, events, episodes as a sequence and action
- ▶ Pattern – verbal structures– gives meaning and artistic effect
- ▶ Rhythm is narrative
- ▶ Pattern is meaning (usage of words)



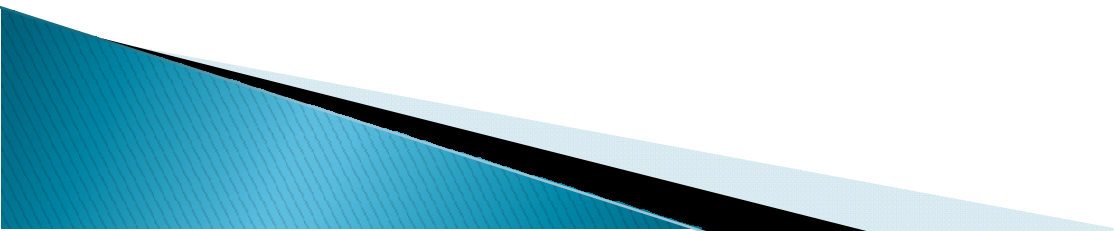
# Four Seasons

## Four phases

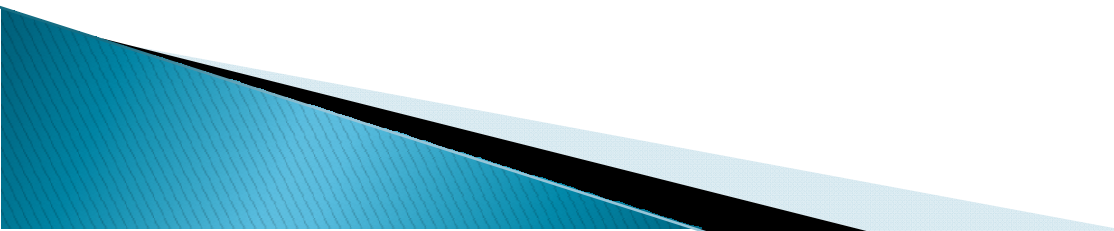
- spring
- Summer
- Autumn
- Winter



# Natural cycles –rhythm of rituals –basics of Literature

- ▶ In animal & birds world–ritual – mating–every year–particular season
  - ▶ It doesn't happen often–long gap–result–reproduction–rituals are rhythmic
  - ▶ Crops–planted–harvested–seasonal–rhythmic
  - ▶ Sacrifices are offered–offerings given–rhythmic
  - ▶ Humans–rituals performed voluntarily–in works of literature origins of such literature–archetypal critic finds–discovers–explains
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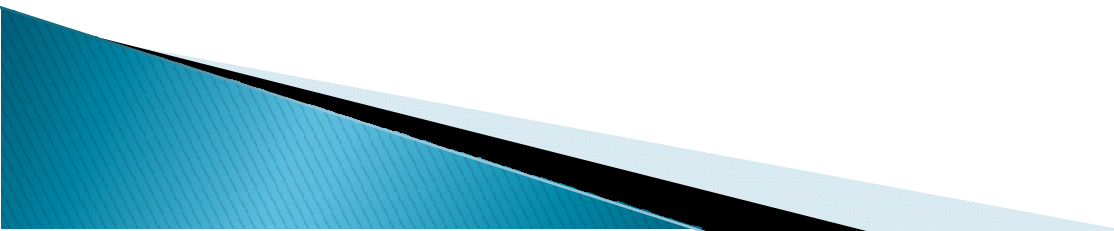
# Patterns in work–Recurrence of image, forms & words

- ▶ Patterns– writer’s enlightenment
  - ▶ Concept– moment of inspiration– expressed in the form of proverbs, riddles, commandments, folktales–occurred due to myth by natural phenomenon
  - ▶ Originally there is narrative in it and the author too adds narrative– he uses myth unconsciously–critic discovers the archetypes–myth –explains the pattern in the work.
  - ▶ Pattern & rhythm–component of a work
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# Archetypes of life-4 phases of myth

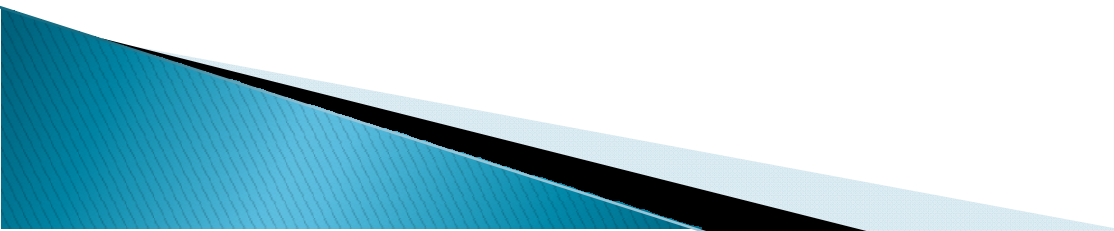
Solar Cycle	Seasonal Cycle	Life Cycle	Literary Cycle
Dawn	Spring	Birth	Myth of birth of the hero, revival, resurrection, creation
Noon	Summer	Youth	Myth about entering paradise, sacred marriage
Sunset	Autumn	Death Phase	Fall of a hero, a dying god, violent death, sacrifice and the hero's isolation
Darkness	Winter	Dissolution	Myth of dark power triumphing flood, return of chaos, defeat of the hero

# Quest Myth

- ▶ Hero goes in quest of truth in all religions (eg.,) Holy Grail in The Wasteland
  - ▶ Archetypal critic analyses closely– critic studies genres–from genre finds the text in terms of myth(General – particular) one finds why the character behaves so – Deductive analysis
  - ▶ From myth only drama or lyric or epic evolved
  - ▶ Archetypal critic–analyses the myth–establishes meaning and message of work
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# The Comic and Tragic Vision of myth

- ▶ Art and religion aim at perfection
- ▶ Art–Dreaming
- ▶ Religion – visualization
- ▶ An archetypal critic analyses comic vision of life and tragic vision of life
- ▶ There are five central pattern of comic and tragic vision of myth



# The Central Pattern of Myth

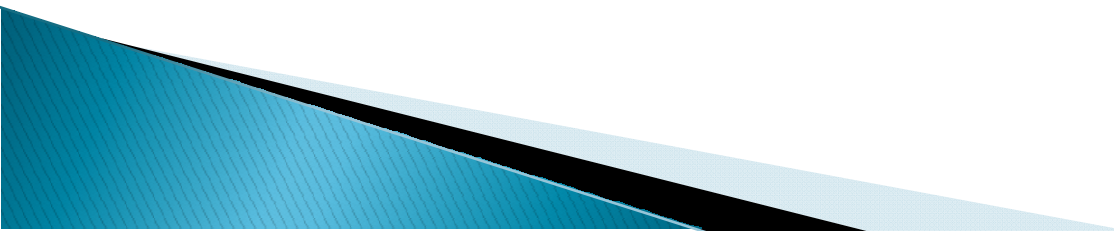
Human	Good man, hero (friendship, love, marriage, consummation)	Human	Tyrants, individual isolated man, giant, witch, detested hero
Animal	Lamb	Animal	Wolves, vulture, serpent
Vegetable	Garden (Rustic image of Shakespeare's forest comedies (Forest of Arden))	Vegetable	Inauspicious forest, Dante's Inferno, Tree of death, a heath, wilderness
Mineral	A city, building, Bethlehem in Jerusalem	Mineral	Deserts, rocks, abandoned castle
Water	River, water of life	Water	Leviathan, water monsters, flooded sea, beast images

Comic Vision

Tragic Vision

# W.B.Yeats' Sailing to Byzantium as Comic vision

- ▶ It is represented by the city, the tree, the bird, the community of sages, the geometrical gyre and detachment from the cyclic world. This is the method of interpreting a symbol or a myth





# Summation

- ▶ Criticism is like works of Literature
- ▶ Creative and archetypal critic discovers the meaning of the text and the motives of a character.( both formalistic and historical criticism)

