The Glass Castle

Goals:

- Strengthen your understanding of identity (course theme) through the application of effective research techniques.
- Explore how Jeannette Walls manipulates characterization and style to develop a theme about Identity.
- Make Comparisons to other course texts with a focus on theme, characterization, and style.

What is Identity?

In our world, we often hear of people attempting to "find themselves"; they are attempting to gain clarity and an understanding about this abstract concept of identity.

Definition of Identity Broken Down...

- the distinguishing character or personality of an individual influenced by internal and external factors
- Identity is fluid because it is the mind's interpretation of the interaction between society and the individual (Cinoglu and Arikan, 2012). Identity is tied to one's role in society and this role changes to meet contextual needs so identity is relational and contextual.
- Psychological research has shown that in many ways our thoughts, feelings, motives and actions depend on who we think we are: our self-concept. Who we think we are is influenced by identification
- Identification: the largely unconscious process whereby an individual models thoughts, feelings, and actions after those attributed to them by external factors and that have been incorporated as a mental image (labels associated with gender, mental illness, etc)
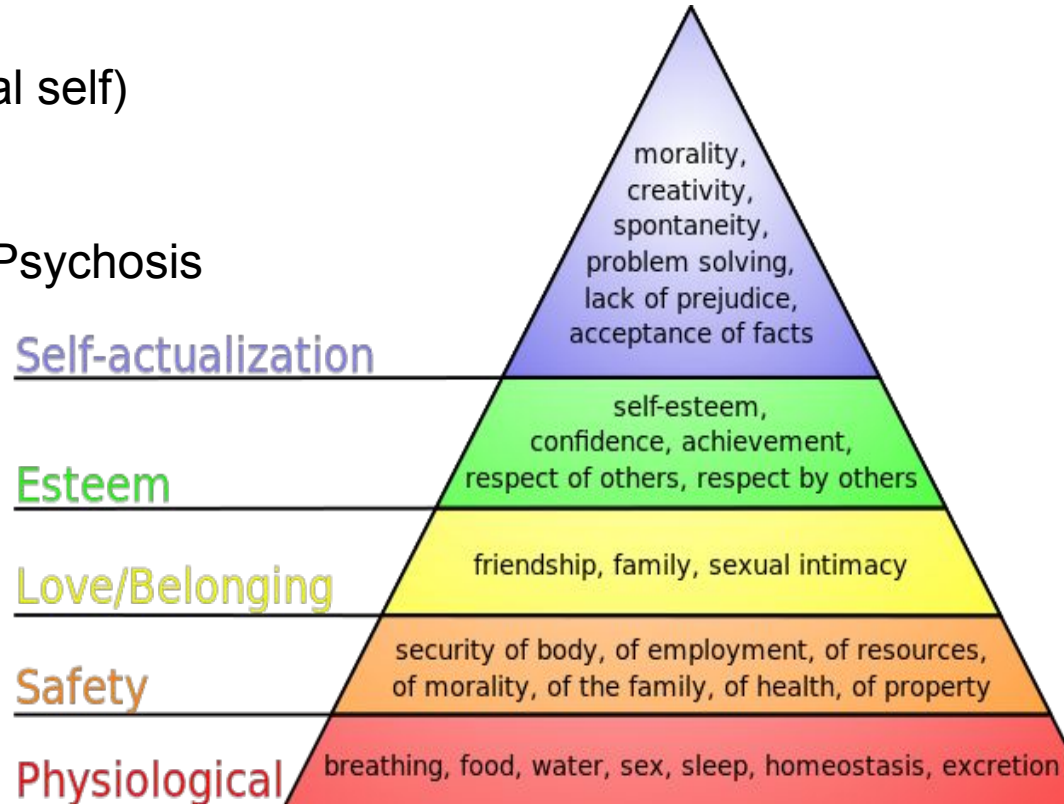
Psychological Theories

- [Stets and Burke (2000)](#) believe that "identity formation begins with a self categorization in which individuals realize and internalize the roles that were expected from them". For example, when a person becomes part of a specific group, he/she will find a way to justify the way of life expected from them and make personal compromises and changes in order to identify with this new group.

- [Erik Erikson](#): focuses on how adolescents must integrate prior experiences into new demands. Identity crisis occurs when the demands from society are at odds with morals associated with previous experiences and upbringing

Psychological Theories

Freudian Theory:

- Id, Ego, Superego (focus on ideal self)
- Oedipus Complex
- Freud's Model of Bereavement
- Freud's Views on Neurosis and Psychosis

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Self-actualization — morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts

Esteem — self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others

Love/Belonging — friendship, family, sexual intimacy

Safety — security of body, of employment, of resources, of morality, of the family, of health, of property

Physiological — breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

Feminist Theories

- Explores the history of feminism and how changes in historical perspectives have impacted female perspectives on self.
- Explores contextual and relational identity formation as it connects to gender.

Marxist Theories on Identity Formation

Explores how one's class impacts his/her identity formation.

A healthy identity:

- The ability to have continuity between the views of one's self from the past and the views of one's self in the future.
- When one's perception of self can exist in relationship with the societal views placed on him/her or with the views of friends/family. (identity negotiation)
- Formed through the identification with significant others: perception of how one fits in with others and whether or not he/she can classify him/herself as one of these others (sense of belonging)
- The ability to reflect on self and have a clear awareness of self.

NOTICE: there are both external pressures and internal pressures which form identity

How Does One Analyze a Text for Identity

Internal Factors (Nature)

- psychological drives and impulses (AKA: Id)
- Internal perspective on self: pride/doubt associated
- Interests, likes, dislikes, talents
- genetics

External Factors (Nurture)

- socio-economic status/position in society
- abuse/neglect/trauma
- education
- influence of parents and other family and friends
- societal expectations (gender)
- religion

Hamlet Reflection

Internal Factors	External Factors
● Ideal self = his father, King Hamlet, is the personification of his ideal self ● Honest ● Loving ● Innocent ● Insecure ● Indecisive	● Expectations placed on him by society because he is Prince of Denmark = must follow in his father's example ● Expectations placed on him by society: filial piety ● Expectations placed on him by society: be dishonest to gain power and achieve desires

Genre: Memoir

"Memoir is a written factual account of somebody's life. It comes from the French word *mémoire,* which means "*memory,*" or *"reminiscence."* This literary technique tells a story about the experiences of someone's life. A literary memoir is usually about a specific theme, or about a part of someone's life. It is a story with a proper narrative shape, focus, and subject matter, involving reflection on some particular event or place"

Source:

 "Memoir - Examples and Definition of Memoir." *Literary Devices*, 22 Oct. 2017, literarydevices.net/memoir/.