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**Week 2 - Angela Carter, *The Magic Toyshop* (1967)**

**Opening Questions:**

* What cultural **problem** is being set up?
	+ What are the paradoxes? What are the clashes?
* Why might readers at a particular time and place find this work compelling?
	+ How does it speak to you as a reader?
	+ How did it speak to the readers at the time it was written?
* Are there differences between my values and the values implicit in the text?
	+ If yes, then what do I do with that?
	+ Does it make me revise my own values?
	+ Does it enrich my values?
	+ Do I need to critique the values in the text?
* What kind of cultural intervention is this text making?
	+ What comment is it making?
	+ How does the text comment on the context in which it is enmeshed?
* How does this text position me as a reader?
	+ What assumptions must you have to be an insider to that text?
	+ Does it tell you what to do?
	+ Does it raise questions that you are left to answer?
	+ Does it invite you to take action?
	+ What are you being asked to do in your position as a reader?
* What is the text setting up as “normative”? What is being set up against the normative as “different”?
	+ What is normal in the world of the text?
	+ Is what is normative linked to for example class, ideology, race, gender, sexual behaviour? If so, in what way?
	+ Is the text privileging a particular belief system or culture as normative?
	+ What is conventional (follows the rules) and unconventional (doesn’t follow the rules)?
	+ What is anti-conventional? Are there characters that deconstruct the status quo of the text?

**Gender and The Magic Toyshop**:

* How does the text construct woman or female? Is it in opposition to man and male?
* Are there women in the text who are set up as not normative?
* How does the text construct man or male?

**Intertextuality**

* Literary texts depend on texts written before them to create a range of references and imagery.
* Intertextuality is when an author borrows, absorbs, and transforms a prior text to create new meaning.
* Intertextuality is different to illusion, which gestures other texts without taking on the meaning of the text.

**Discuss the following questions in relation to the images:**

1. How is this image used in the novel?
2. Consider how this might expand the existing range of imagery?
3. How does the narrative appropriate the images and contextualise them for the characters?
4. What questions and themes do they create?
5. Is the image absorbed and transformed within the novel?