

The Unconscious of the Text

Read the short discussion of the fairy tale 'The Sleeping Beauty' from Bettelheim, *The Uses of Enchantment*, available on the Strategies seminar page (next to the link to this sheet).

Also read Terry Eagleton's chapter on psychoanalysis on the library course extracts page here:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/electronicresources/extracts/fr/fr118>

1. Consider Bettelheim's analysis of the fairy tale in the light of the theories of the unconscious discussed in the lecture. How do you react to his analysis? Do you find his interpretations convincing? Give your reasons.
2. Select one literary or filmic text (it can be a text we have looked at on the course). Re-consider it in the light of theories and approaches relating to the unconscious.
3. When credited with the 'discovery' of the unconscious, Freud is said to have replied: 'The poets and philosophers before me discovered the unconscious [...] What I discovered was the scientific method by which the unconscious can be studied.' What do you think Freud means? Give an example from any text (poetry / philosophy / literature / film) that illustrates Freud's idea.
4. Construct an essay plan for ONE of the following titles making reference to ONE OR MORE texts from the course:
 - To what extent has psychoanalysis provided us with useful models of critical reading practice?
 - In what sense(s) can a text be said to have an 'unconscious'?