Since its publication in 1899, Heart of Darkness has been one of the most widely read books written in English. It has also been one of the most analyzed: scores of literary critics, ranging from feminists to Marxists to New Critics, have all tried to construct their own meanings from the pages of the book. The novel does seem to invite a wide variety of interpretations. Its narrator even claims the meaning of the story "was not inside like a kernel but outside, enveloping the tale which brought it out only as a glow brings out a haze, in the likeness of one of these misty halos that sometimes are made visible by the spectral illumination of moonshine."After reading Heart of Darkness, you may feel that the meaning of the story is very hazy. How do you go about making sense of a story as obscure as Heart of Darkness? This WebQuest may be of some help. It will help you learn just how some critics have come up with their interpretations of Heart of Darkness and encourage you to develop your own critical stance on the book. On your journey toward meaning, you will follow Marlow up the Congo River, shedding light on the heart of darkness as you proceed, finally arriving at a better understanding of this evasive book.-Written by Robert Rozema
http://www.writeawriting.com/academic-writing/literary-criticism/

Your task is twofold. First, you must become familiar with one assigned type of literary criticism (below): psychoanalytical, post-colonial, reader response, deconstructionist, or feminist. I have provided a list of links for this purpose, as well as overarching questions for you to demonstrate and deepen your understanding. You are not working as a group, but (if you're confused) discuss your specific lens with other people reading the book with the same type of literary perspective.

Second, you must use this critical approach to interpret passages from Heart of Darkness. In other words, you must read these passages as a psychoanalytical, post-colonial, reader response, deconstructionist, or feminist critic. To achieve these tasks, you will follow Marlow up the Congo River (read the book). Along the way, you will be visiting links, recording your observations in your Congo Diary, and analyzing key passages.

Psychoanalytical- Cori, Joe, Lauren
Post-colonial- Ethan, Megan, David
Reader Response- Josh, Billy
Deconstructionist- Dylan, Melissa
Feminist- Jenna, Maverick, Tanya

Your first task is to explore your one critical approach. Be sure to answer the corresponding questions below the listed links. You should record these answers in your journal.

I have compiled some resources for you to use in your quest for knowledge. They are not exhaustive—you might have to do some searching on your own to answer all of the questions. Some are historical, and some relate specifically to how you read the text. Your completed questions will be due on Monday the 27th. Because I am giving you a lot of class time to work on this assignment, I expect you to try to answer the questions thoroughly. Be sure to use appropriate language.

At five separate times throughout the novel, you will be asked to closely read a chosen excerpt from Heart of Darkness and record a response in your journal. Each response must be at least 150 words and be supported by at least two direct quotes from the text.

Most importantly, remember that your goal is to read and react to each passage as a psychoanalytical, post-colonial, reader response, deconstructionist, or feminist critic. Ask yourself, "How would this sort of critic read this passage? What would he or she find important?"
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**Conclusion**

**Teacher Page**

- Standards
- Credits
- Other