

**Assignment: Propp-R Analysis Paper**

Due Friday, September 11, 4pm on Moodle (late assignments will not be accepted)

**Learning objectives:**

- Students demonstrate an understanding of a tale structure by applying the Propp-R model
- Students demonstrate the ability to link the analysis of the tale structure to the overarching theme of the tale (So what?)

**Assignment:** Choose a Hans Christian Andersen' tale for the application of the Propp-R model. It is a good idea to think ahead and select a tale that you would like to write your Research Paper. By focusing on one particular tale in your written assignments, you will have a better understanding of the text and less work to do when writing your Research Paper. The tale cannot be shorter than two pages. Once you have chosen a tale, identify the theme: is it unconditional love? unhappy relationship? a lesson in heroism? lack of virtue? and so on. Then write an analysis of the tale structure using the Propp-R model. It is not enough to outline the elements of the tale. You have to show how these elements are linked to the theme of the tale. So what that the hero wins the challenges? Pay a lot of attention to the lack and reward. Think beyond lack of physical comfort or objects, what is the hero actually missing to be fulfilled in his/her life? What do physical objects symbolize? For example, that does it mean if the hero catches the golden bird or wins a princess? Finally, focus on the virtues and vices of the hero (why s/he deserves magical helpers, if any) and the opponents (what drives them to interfere the hero's plans). Use examples from the tale to support your arguments. If you quote, refer to the Hacker's A Pocket Style Manual how to cite correctly using the MLA citation style. You will not be graded whether you cite correctly for this paper, but it is a good idea to start practicing using the MLA-citation style.

**Paper length and requirements:** 500-560 words (2 pages); please indicate your name, assignment title and the date on the top left corner of your essay. It is a generative writing assignment, therefore your critical inquiry and the organization of your ideas weigh more than the revised, carefully edited and proofread text. Keep in mind that this is NOT a rough draft or a diary type of writing where "anything goes". Your essay should have an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, and a closing paragraph. The tone of your paper should be formal and academic. It is ok to use the first pronoun throughout this essay. Think of this assignment as an ongoing exercise in the refinement of your voice. Your classmates and the instructor is your audience.

**Grading:**

- appropriate application of the Propp-R model, including identification of all the elements
- theme of the tale is identified in introduction
- the essay discusses how the structural elements support your argument about the theme
- well structured essay with a clear beginning, middle, and end
- appropriate voice for assignment/audience (no usage of slang, colloquial expressions and abbreviations)
- grammar and punctuation do not distract from reading the essay

The essay score x15

13-15	Mostly plus scores; strong performance in all areas
10-12	Mostly check-plus scores; room for improvement in a few areas
6-9	Mostly check scores; work is OK but could be improved in most areas
0-5	Low scores in several areas