

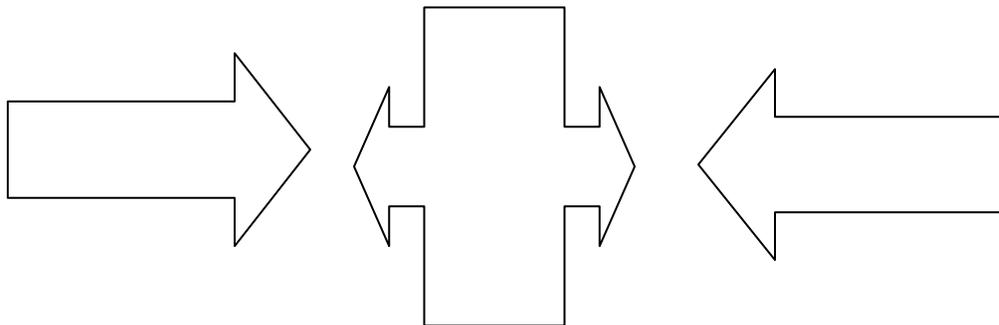
Psychoanalytic Criticism

Freud's Radical Idea:

The Unconscious:

Repression:

Three parts of the Psyche

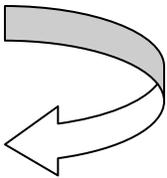


Key Psychological Defenses

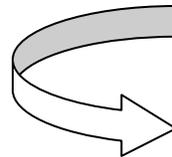
Term	Definition
Selective Perception	
Selective memory	
Denial	
Avoidance	
Displacement	
Projection	

How we handle conflict

Regression:



Active Reversal:



Core Issues

- Fear of intimacy – The chronic feeling that emotional closeness will seriously hurt or destroy us. Safety comes only from keeping emotional distance.
- Fear of abandonment – the belief that our friends/loved ones are going to desert us (physical abandonment) or don't really care about us (emotional abandonment)
- Fear of betrayal – the nagging feeling that our friends/loved ones can't be trusted (laughing at you behind your back, cheating on you)
- Low self-esteem - belief that you are less worthy than other people; you don't deserve attention, love, etc
- Insecure/Unstable Sense of Self - inability to sustain a feeling of identity (feeling of knowing ourselves)
- Oedipal complex - dysfunctional bond with opposite-sex parent that hinders our adult relationships

Two Competing Drives

<p>Thanatos (Death Drive)</p> 	<p>Eros</p> 
---	---

Dreams

Psychoanalytic Questions

- What unconscious motivations are operating in the character?
- How are the core fears and defenses structure or inform the story?
- Are there Oedipal patterns at work? Do adult behaviour patterns reflect childhood issues?
- How do characters' behaviour reflect their psychological identity (e.g. balance of id-ego-superego?)
- Are there any dream symbols in the text? In what ways do the dreams show the character projecting?
- What does the work suggest about the psychological being of its author?
- What might a psychological interpretation say about the reader?