

- How might the meaning of a text affected by **who** is reading it?
- What is “logocentrism” and how does Derrida feel about it?
- Give four examples of hybridity involving specific religious traditions.

1

6. “Texts” + Culture

2

Today

- Finish: “Texts”
- Film Analysis
- Start: Culture
- Last class: earbuds

3

Anonymous Feedback

- Many messages (thanks!)
- More discussion of how to apply theories
 - ➔ Lecture should expand understanding, not just repeat Nye’s text
- “Let us know what our current participation grade is.”



4

Field Research Contract

- Contract due **October 27**
- Find a group!
 - ➔ Same tutorial / TA
- Can visit your site any time
 - ➔ Go before **November 7**
 - ➔ Need to observe a **ritual**
 - ➔ Contact the site in advance (rules, dates, etc.)

5

“Texts!”

6

“Texts”

What do (sacred) texts **mean**?

Which (sacred) texts do we study?

Why study (sacred) texts?

7

Meaning of Texts?

- Texts have **many** possible meanings
- Lots of disagreements!
- Language is complicated
- Literal vs. metaphorical meanings
- Meaning beyond words/content

8

Theories of “Text”

- Michel Foucault + Roland Barthes
(authority of the author)
- Judith Fetterley + Julia Leslie
(gendered readings)
- Wolfgang Iser + Stanley Fish
(importance of the reader)
- Jacques Derrida
(language and interpretation)

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Theories of “Text”

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Foucault + Barthes

- Authority of the **author**?
- Two issues re: meaning:
 1. Author’s intent is NOT important
(→ “death” of author)
 2. Author’s identity IS important
(status, expertise, gender, etc.)

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Author’s Intent is NOT Important?

“You know this is your
master, eh?
Do you feel the lash?”

12

“Shake It Off”

I stay out too late
Got nothing in my brain
That's what people say, mmm-mmm
That's what people say, mmm-mmm

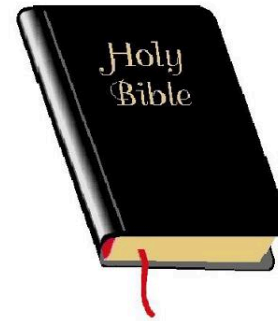
'Cause the players gonna play, play, play, play, play
And the haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate
Baby, I'm gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake
I shake it off, I shake it off

haters gonna hate

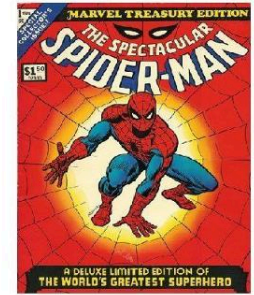
author's identity IS important

Author's Identity IS Important

Proof that god exists



Proof that Spider-man exists



Illustrated by Vicki Wick

Hakuna Matata

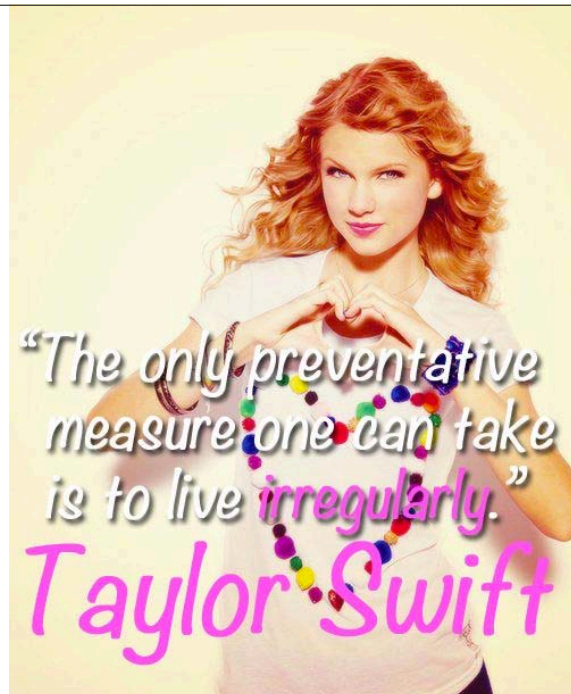
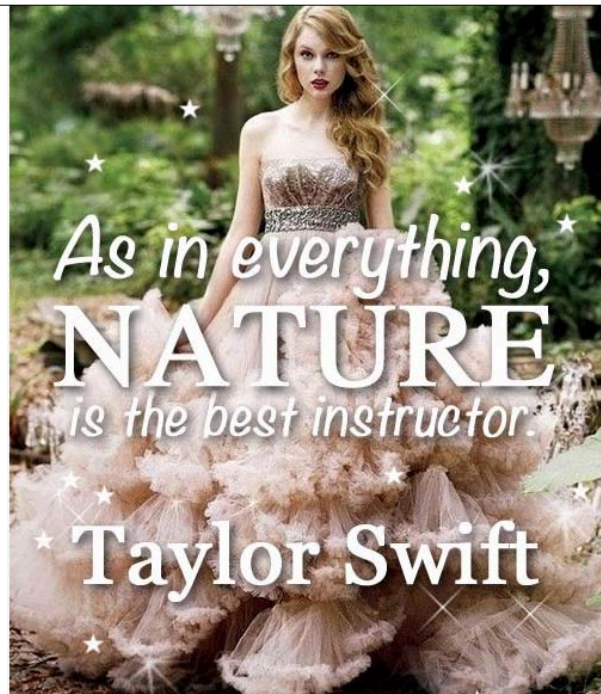
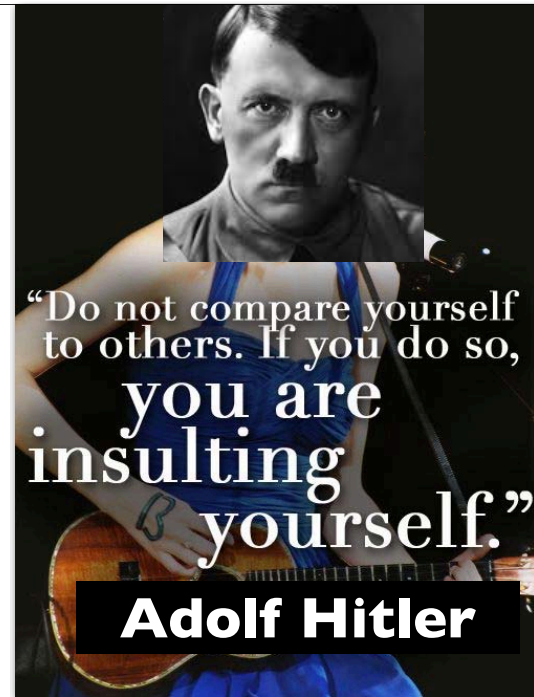


One True King



How does the author's identity affect the meaning of the following texts?

17



Fetterley + Leslie

- Gendered readings
 - ➔ Which texts/words are important?
Who are the authors?
 - ➔ How we read may be affected by gender
 - ➔ Sacred texts?
 - ➔ *The Lion King*?

21



22

I shall practice my curtsy.



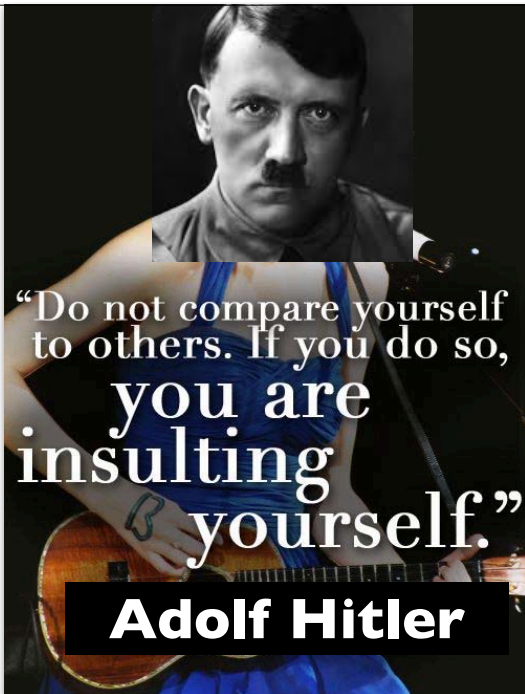
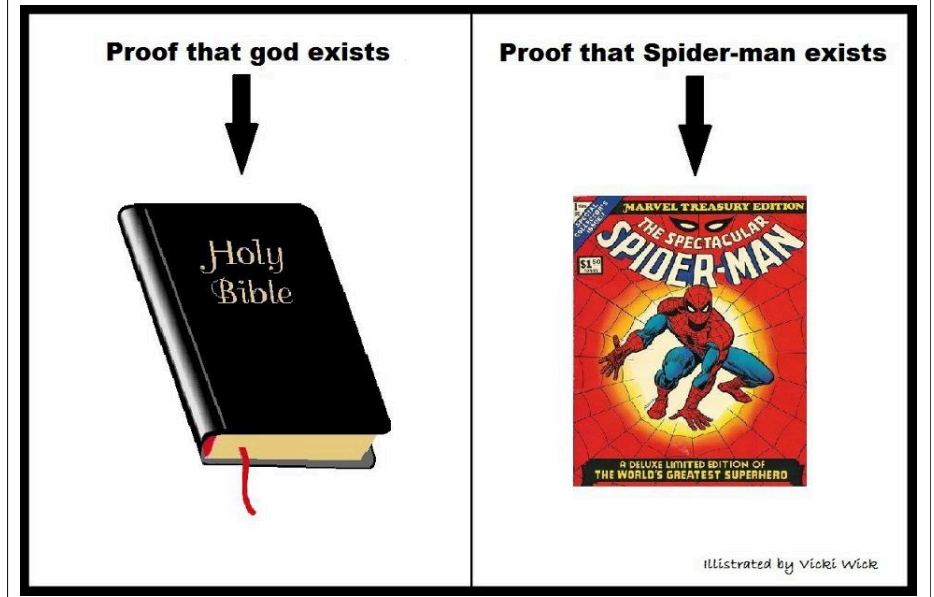
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Iser + Fish

- Importance of **reader**
- Knowledge of (or connection to) text's content, author, etc.
 - ➔ Science book read by scientist vs. artist
 - ➔ Nye's book for you now vs. last month
 - ➔ Reader's view of an author

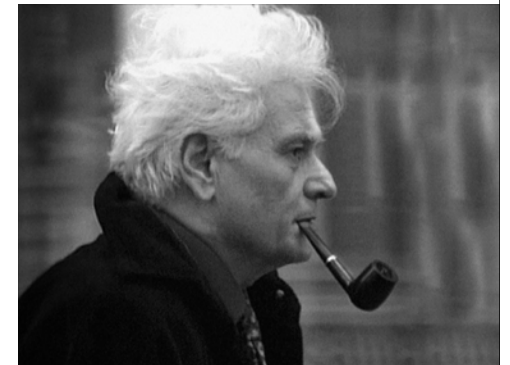
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Importance of the reader?



Jacques Derrida

- Logocentrism (X)
- Belief that words are a window to the world



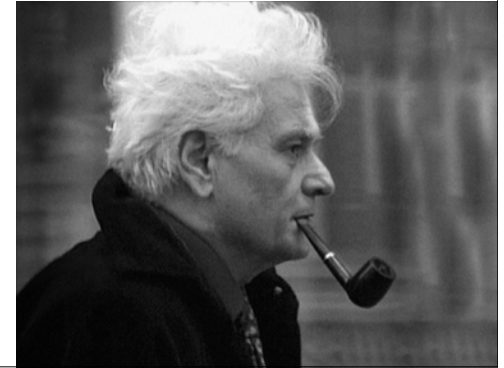
Logocentrism: *The Office* S04E04



I ... DECARE ... BANKRUPTCYYYYY!

Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
2. The meanings of texts are **variable**



Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
 - ➔ We live in worlds **shaped** by texts
 - ➔ Course syllabi, essay instructions
 - ➔ Sacred texts!!
 - ➔ *The Lion King*

Hakuna Matata



No Worries

One True King



33

Jacques Derrida

2. The meanings of texts are **variable**

- ➔ Unstable links between words + reality
- ➔ Meaning affected by changes in history, context, author, reader, etc.
- ➔ Meaning of words not fixed
- ➔ Icon

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Icon:
The Ladder of
Divine Ascent
(12th C)



agree disagree the greatest



go to hell forget about it

Jacques Derrida

1. Texts are **important**
2. The meanings of texts are **variable**



Parks and Recreation S05E19



citizens shall dump Ted into Ramsett Lake

what the founders meant



The Pawnee Charter

- Leslie: being logocentric re: Ted / tea
 - ➔ Misreading
- Seize any Indian property
 - ➔ Misreading re: Tom (but still applies to Native Americans; needs to change)
- Women vs. land-owning males
 - ➔ Still applies (needs to change)

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Which Texts?

- Quotation marks? (“Texts”)
 - ➔ Oral “texts”
 - ➔ Visual “texts” (movies, TV, internet, etc.)

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Which Texts?

- Roland Barthes, *Mythologies*
 - ➔ All “texts” matter
 - ➔ University: “popular” vs “academic”
 - ➔ Stories, poems, films, TV shows, lyrics, commercials, billboards, etc., etc.
 - ➔ Don’t assume which “texts” are “sacred”

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Which Texts?

- Film analysis and “texts”:
 - ➔ NOT looking at authors OF films
 - ➔ Apply theories to authors/speakers/etc. WITHIN the film
 - ➔ “Text” = anything in the film that is spoken, sung, written, named, signed, etc.

45

Why Texts?

- Max Müller:
 - ➔ Texts are the MOST IMPORTANT
 - ➔ Study of religion = study of sacred texts
 - ➔ Beliefs, origins, (male) founders
 - ➔ “Pure” tradition vs. change over time + how actual people practice their religion
 - ➔ Protestant Reformation (Martin Luther) emphasized texts (“sola scriptura”)

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Why Texts?

- Power of words / language
 - ➔ Names, laws, stories
 - ➔ United States: illegal for slaves to read
 - ➔ Gerald Ratner’s 1991 speech (“crap”)
 - ➔ Prof. Marrus: “You know this is your master, eh? Do you feel the lash?”
 - ➔ Malaysia: “Allah” illegal for non-Muslims to use/say

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Why Texts?

#MeToo

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Why Texts?

“Sticks and stones may
break my bones, but ...”

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Why Texts?

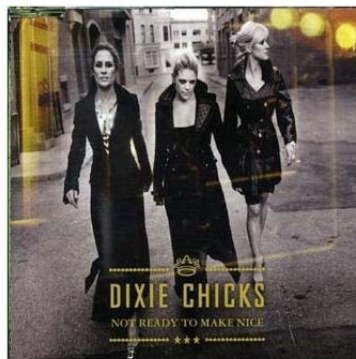
“Words can break someone into
a million pieces, but they can also
put them back together.
I hope you use yours for good.”

— Taylor Swift

50

Song

- “Not Ready to Make Nice”
by The Dixie Chicks (2006)



51

The Dixie Chicks

“We do not want this war [in Iraq],
this violence, and we’re ashamed that
the President of the United States
is from Texas.”

(Natalie Mains, 2003 March 10)

52

“Not Ready to Make Nice”

And how in the world
Can the words that I said
Send somebody so over the edge
That they'd write me a letter
Saying that I better
Shut up and sing
Or my life will be over?

53



54

Pause for Reflection

- We have studied:
 - ➔ Belief
 - ➔ Ritual
 - ➔ “Texts”
- These are often connected!

55

Hakuna Matata



56



57

Eid al-Fitr



Film Analysis

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Film Analysis

- Value:
 - ➔ Learn by doing (=use of theory)
 - ➔ Original research
 - ➔ Critical analysis
 - ➔ Difficulty
 - ➔ Surprise? (Change your perspective?)

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Film Analysis: Part I

- Grades + assignments posted
 - ➔ Thanks for not emailing us!
- You \neq your grades
- First assignment only worth 5%
 - ➔ Chance to learn and improve
- Overall: well done
 - ➔ Yay!!

60

Film Analysis: Part I

- Grading process + appeals
 - ➔ See announcement from last week
 - ➔ Not graded to achieve certain average
- Rubric: qualitative guide
 - ➔ Remember: C = adequate

61

Film Analysis: Part I

- Learning and improving
 - ➔ Education!
 - ➔ Please look at feedback from TA
 - ➔ Students who met with me or the TAs improved their work

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Film Analysis: Part I

- Next time ask for help!
 - ➔ Me / your TA
(Ian's office hours: Wed 12-2pm, ER208)
 - ➔ RG Academic Skills Centre
 - ➔ AccessAbility Resource Centre
 - ➔ Health + Counselling Centre

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Film Analysis: Part I

- Common issues:
 1. Not following instructions (!!)
 2. Quality of work

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Film Analysis: Part I

- Common issues:
 - ➔ Format (font, double-spacing)
 - ➔ Message of film absent or not connected to analysis
 - ➔ Assumptions / insufficient evidence
 - ➔ Theory use / explanation / understanding
 - ➔ Liminal stage!

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Final Film Analysis

- 4 paragraphs in total:
 1. 1st theory: rite of passage (revised)
 2. 2nd theory (belief/ritual/text)
 3. 3rd theory (belief/ritual/text)
 4. Reflection

66

Final Film Analysis

- Documents posted on Bb (“Film Analysis” > “Final Film Analysis”)
 1. Instructions
 2. Grading rubric
 3. List of theories (chapters 5, 6, 7)
 4. (Checklist)

67

Final Film Analysis

- Submission:
 - ➔ Blackboard: “Final Film Analysis”
 - ➔ Turnitin.com: “Revision 1: Film Analysis”
- Due **October 20**

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Rite of Passage

- Rite of passage = literal / symbolic journey
 1. Separation
 - ➔ Death of old self; leave home
 2. Liminality
 - ➔ “Threshold” or barrier; anti-structure
 3. Incorporation
 - ➔ Birth of new self; go home (new/old); physical change?

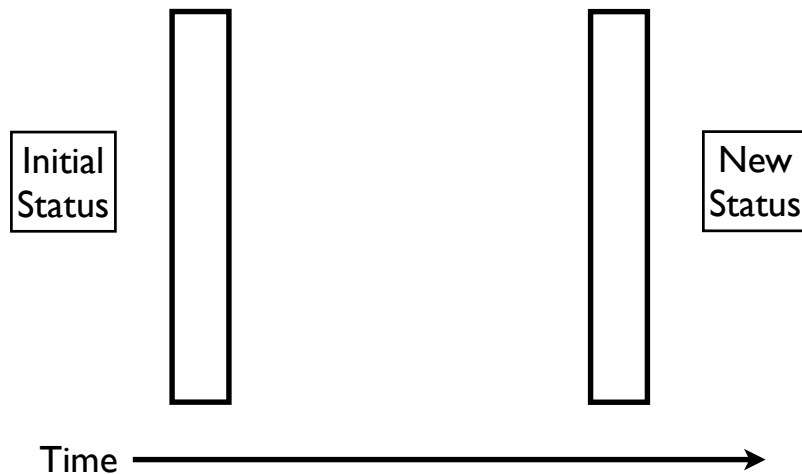
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Rite of Passage

- Limin = “threshold”
- Liminal stage (from Nye, p. 147):
 - ➔ Inversion of “normal” life
 - ➔ Different dress/place/behaviour
 - ➔ Bizarre, upside-down
 - ➔ Anti-structure, opposite of normal

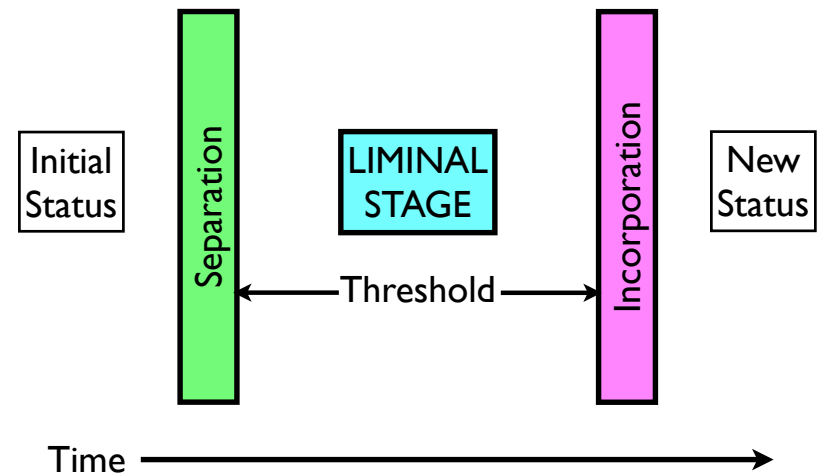
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Rite of Passage



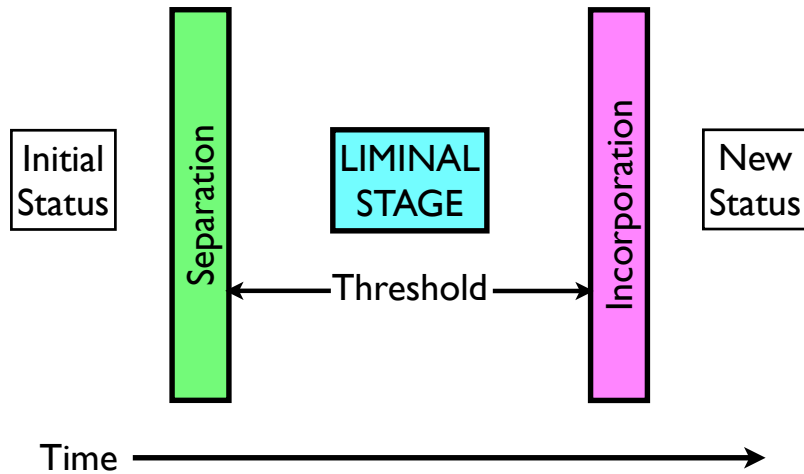
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Rite of Passage



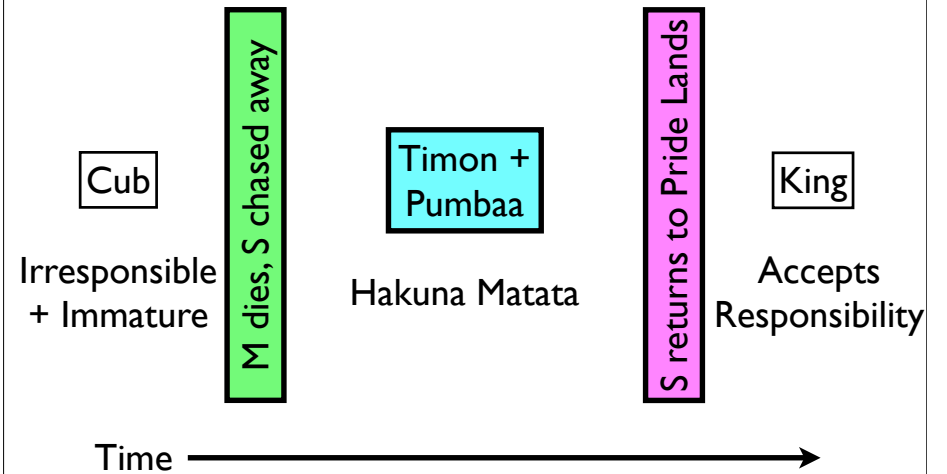
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Rite of Passage: Simba



73

Rite of Passage: Simba



74

Separation



Threshold!

75

Liminality



76

Culture!

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Culture

- Big picture stuff
 - ➔ What is “culture”?
 - ➔ What do we study?
- Specific theories
 - ➔ How do we study culture?
 - ➔ Interpretive “lenses”

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Culture

- What is “culture”?
 - ➔ Everything!
 - ➔ Music, film, literature, fashion, food, etc.
- What do we study?
 - ➔ Everything!
 - ➔ “Elite/high” and “popular/low”

79

Name that religion!

80



81



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