



Jungian Dream Analysis as Literary Theory

An Unexplored Route to Understanding the
Unconscious Psyche's Impact on Literature

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Preexisting Theories



Psychological Theory

Based in Freud's process of dream analysis

Concrete / easily applied to literature



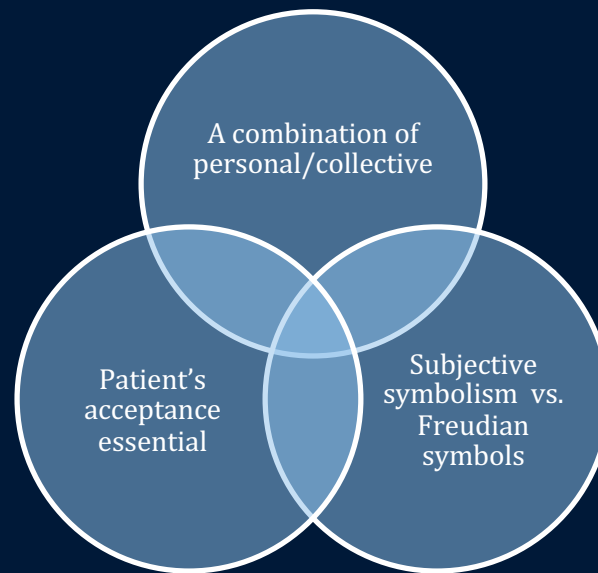
Archetype Theory

Created by Carl Jung for the purpose of literary analysis

Focuses on recurring universal themes

Personal Psyche
vs.
Collective Unconscious

Jungian Dream Analysis Model



The Structure of Dreams



- Story outline with resolution
- Can give symbolic insight into the:
 - Past
 - Present
 - Future?



Waking Dreams: “Active Imagination”

- Term coined by Jung
- A process of discovery/inquiry
- Different than daydreaming (passive)
- Opens the conscious psyche to the unconscious
- Jung’s preference for interpretation



“The person doing it [active imagination] may choose to focus on a constellation of unconscious material such as a feeling, an obsessive thought, a dream scene or an image to which one feels drawn. It is important to exert as little influence as possible on mental images as they unfold.”

- Laner Cassar

”The Red Book”



Jung’s personal ”active imagination” journal
(unpublished until 2009 by family)

Predictions of War?



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Dream Analysis Applied to Literature

- Emphasizes author research to determine the personal/collective
- A way to settle the “intentionality” debate in literary interpretation
- The utilization of writing in psychological practice

Support & Explanation for “Visionary Authorship”

- Past works which unexplainably predicted the future
 - Science fiction genre



A way to legitimize the Christian
worldview in literary criticism?

- Jung's Christian background
- Theological turned psychological
- Collective unconscious
- Another definition for spiritual inspiration?



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