**The Lion King**

**From 4 Different Literary Criticism Lenses**

***Feminist/Gender***: Notice the helpless role females have in this society. The female lions are used to provide food and care for the young, yet it is the males that have all the power. When Mufasa dies, his power transfers to either his son or his brother. His wife is never even considered. Nala is also clearly “stronger” than Simba yet she is considered inferior to him.

***Marxist***: The upper class (lions) try to maintain power over an unhappy lower class (hyenas). The lower class resents the privileges of better food and hunting grounds that the upper class maintains. This conflict causes a rebellion, which disrupts the normal social order causing chaos and destruction. Scar, a member of the upper class, exploits the lower class hyenas to gain power for himself.

***Archetypical***: Simba, the classic reluctant hero, undergoes a journey to come of age and reclaim his rightful place as leader of Pride Rock. He is helped by a wizard-shaman like character, Rafiki, and two loveable but strange side-kicks, Pumba and Timon. He must (literally) face the ghost of his father in order to come to terms with his destiny, another common theme in literature. Finally, a rainstorm washes away the fire and destruction that has occurred at Pride Rock, bringing new life as often in stories water is symbolized to do.

***Post-colonial***: The hyenas represent the “other” colonized force in the story. They were doing just fine at Pride Rock, hunting their game, but then the lions came and took over everything and limited their ability to garner the resources they needed. Ultimately, throughout the story, the hyenas are characterized as brutal, unsympathetic, and greedy, but we must remember this story is being told from the lion’s point of view.

**In groups, pick an easy story or fairy tale that you are familiar with, then criticize it from one of the different lenses we discussed. (Turn in one paper / group by the end of the period)**

**For homework, pick a different movie, story, or fairy tale and pick 4 different lenses to apply to it in a write up. (Turn in tomorrow)**