Archetypes Paper-Literary Analysis

Project Description

Archetypes play important roles in legends, myths, and epic poems. An archetype is a pattern that appears in literature across cultures and is repeated throughout time. An archetype can be a character, a plot, an image, a symbol, or a setting. Archetypes are still very popular in movies and novels today. The purpose of this independent reading paper is for you to (1) understand the definition of the archetype (2) identify 3 archetypes, (3) explain the characteristics of each archetype, and (4) demonstrate your understanding of the 3 archetypes by explaining how each is represented to create an overall theme in 1 novel of your choice. You must give specific examples from your chosen novel in order to demonstrate your understanding of each archetype and how each archetype contributes to a universal theme.

Below is a list of common archetypal characters, situations, images, and symbols. You will identify 3:

Archetypal Characters:
- the childhood innocent
- the hero
- the Earth mother
- the mentor / wise old man/ sage
- the rebel/pirate/cowboy
- the villain
- the damsel in distress
- the monster
- the jester
- the sidekick
- the threshold guardian
- the outcast

Animals:
- snakes
- birds-light and dark colored birds

Situational Archetypes
- the quest
- the task
- the loss of innocence
- the initiation

Images
- water
- shapes
- sun
- numbers
- colors
- objects: ovals, circles, mirrors

Your paper (literary analysis) should contain the following information:

1. Intro paragraph: The definition of archetype
2. Intro paragraph: A brief summary of your novel and an introduction to the universal theme you will discuss throughout the paper
3. Body paragraphs: An in-depth description of each of your three archetypes and how they relate to the theme mentioned in your introduction. This description should not only include a definition of each archetype, but it should also include examples (2 concrete details) of each archetype from another work of literature.
4. An analysis of how each of your three archetypes is used thematically in the novel of your choice. Be sure to give specific examples from your novel demonstrating how a character (or characters) exhibit the characteristics of a specific archetype or how the situations, images, or symbols in the plot are examples of archetypes. Remember to link these descriptions to the overall theme mentioned in your introduction.

The requirements for your paper are as follows:

- five total paragraphs which make up 3-4 pages, PLUS a works cited page (so 4-5 pages total)
- proper MLA formatting (typed, Times New Roman, 12 point font, 1-inch margins, double spaced, heading).
- We will allow some time in class to complete the paper; however, you will be expected to work on the paper outside of class as needed.