

International College of Manitoba
The Storyteller, Literature of Place and Haunted Spaces

In-class second Midterm Stylistic Analysis (2) 12.5 %
Tom Cox's *21st-Century Yokel*

DATE: Wednesday March 28 ; Saturday March 31, 2017

DURATION: 3 hours in-class

COURSE TITLE: Thematic Approaches to Literature 1400

EXAMINER: Kim Olynyk

Summarize and analyze **one (1)** of the following chapters from Tom Cox's *21st Century Yokel*: "Witches Knickers", "Two Otters, Seven Beavers, Two Rivers and a Lynx", "The Hillocks have Eyes"; "Full Jackdaw" and/or "Dawn of The Dad". Write two **(2) paragraphs**, which take into account elements of the chapter's structure and larger meaning linking the main themes of our course to the chapter. Refer to the techniques used for analyzing literature, for example dramatic structure, sentence structure, irony, figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification), foreshadowing, point-of-view, tone, setting, themes, and imagery. A good paragraph is ½ to ¾ of a page. Balance paragraphs and double-space your work. Choose any three **(3)** stylistic literary or rhetorical devices for your analysis but you must link the work to the role of the storyteller, literature of place and haunted spaces. Focus on a particular passage within the chapter if you wish and read closely. Do not generalize or respond other than to comment on the undergirding themes and what we learn from Cox regarding the English countryside, family, ancestral history, ghosts and haunted spaces. Remember to provide textual evidence and analyze. Your summary and contextualization of the author's work should be brief. Do not just identify the devices but explain how they alter the work and our experience of Cox's meaning. You can follow this rubric but you should write freely and use as much textual evidence from the chapter or your passage as possible.

1. In your first paragraph make sure to provide the name of the author and the title of the work and the title of the chapter properly italicized that you are analyzing as well as the date of publication.
2. Then summarize in one (1 or 2) two sentences the important thematic elements **from your selected chapter** that contribute to the overall structure of his book generally.
3. Briefly describe his themes in the chapter and specifically outline his main ideas. For example, perhaps Cox is concerned with "re-wilding" or positions on wildlife and conservation issues from the point-of-view of the history of ecological and environmental consciousness in south Devon. Why? What role does the counsel of the storyteller offer us here so that we can make sense of him wanting to find and share the source of the Dart River and why map its tributaries? What is haunting about a river drying up? How are plant, human and wildlife affected? How do environments changing affect the landscape? How do legends, folklore, fables and fairytales contribute to ancestral history or haunted spaces. What do three chronological family lines on Cox's father's side reveal about him or us and our relationship to landscape and the past? What does a landscape populated with scarecrows say about British farmland or the importance of place and landscape on our imaginations? What role does fear and haunting play in our everyday and ordinary lives? Link your summary and analyses to the your chapter directly and then to the storyteller, the importance of landscape and the literature of place and haunted spaces.
5. Use textual evidence from the passage you choose to support your view of the use of the devices toward telling a more meaningful story and its affects on the reader.
6. In the **second paragraph** analyze your literary or narrative devices by providing textual evidence and or quotes from passages or scenes in the chapter to support Cox's use of each device (for example

describe his tone, attitude and use of humour) and link these back to themes or a deeper significance. Ask yourself what is at stake for him as an author writing across genres using first-person confessional narration and memoir, for example. Look at his use of figurative language and narrative strategies to tell a story.

7. Link each device back to the larger meaning or significance of the overall importance of the work or messages embodied in the text to our themes in the course.

8. Conclude your analysis at the end of the second paragraph by going back to your introduction and restating the literary devices you explored, the themes and ideas you unearthed and the importance and significance of your understandings toward further food for thought.

9. Ensure you double-space your work and use the MLA format.

10. Provide a Work Cited.