

## 應用原型理論觀點探討六個故事

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### 摘要

故事閱讀通常聚焦在發現意思，因為這是教學進行重要的一部分。但原型理論以不同的方式了解故事。本文應用原型理論觀點探討六個故事，這六個故事是 *The Salad*、*The Nose*、*Cherry or the Frog-Bride*、*Jorinda and Jorindel*、*The Crows and the Soldier*、和 *The Blue Light*，六個故事全取自於格林兄弟 Brothers Grimm (1996) 的 *Grimms' Fairy Tales* 這本書。討論完六個故事後，會提供一些問題，方便教師在教室故事的應用，學生也能有機會使用另一種方式理解故事和了解自己。

關鍵字：原型理論、意思、故事

## The Application of the Archetypal Perspective into Six Tales

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### ABSTRACT

When one reads a story, it is typical for one to discover the tale's meaning. It is commonly thought that this is one important aspect of teaching. Archetypal theory directs one to an alternative way to understand a story. This paper will examine six stories from the archetypal viewpoint. These six tales are *The Salad*, *The Nose*, *Cherry or the Frog-Bride*, *Jorinda and Jorindel*, *The Crows and the Soldier*, and *The Blue Light*, all taken from Brothers Grimm's (1996) *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. It is beneficial to include one more way to understand a story. So, this paper will provide some questions after the six stories are analyzed. A teacher can then enhance his or her application of a tale in a classroom. Students can also have a chance to better understand a story and themselves.

Key words: Archetypal theory, meaning, tales



## 1. Introduction

When discussing a story in a classroom, a teacher commonly focuses on the meaning of a story. This may be because the meaning is one important feature of the teacher's lesson. Teaching the meaning of a story is a good way to guide students to gain access to a literary work. However, a literary theory can bring up a different way for a story to be understood. One important theory that has been introduced in many theoretical books is archetypal theory. Some books that discuss archetypal theory are Belsey's (1980) *Critical Practice* and Atkins and Morrow's (1989) *Contemporary Literary Theory*. Archetypal theory is an insightful theory that a teacher can use when teaching a story. Then, the teacher can enhance his or her application of a lesson in the classroom. Students can also benefit from this type of teaching. As a result, the students can gain some insights about themselves.

To apply archetypal theory into the reading of a story, one needs to be familiar with Jung's (1966) concepts of conscious and unconscious. The conscious is situated above the unconscious. The conscious is connected to one's morality. The unconscious is linked to one's desires. The conscious and unconscious in one's mind often struggle with each other when an issue arises. As Jung (1966) says, "In most people the cause of the division is that the conscious mind wants to hang on to its moral ideal, while the unconscious strives after its - in the contemporary sense - unmoral ideal which the conscious mind tries to deny" (p. 20). The unconscious may apply great energy to influence the conscious so that a desire may turn into action. As Bressler (1994) states, "The conscious... is directly affected by the unconscious" (p. 92). Guerin, Labor, Morgan, and Willingham (1979) also point out that "Unchecked, it [id, which is unconscious,] would lead us to any lengths - to destruction and even self-destruction - to satisfy its impulses for pleasure" (p. 125). As a result, the action affected by the unconscious desire can be detrimental. In order to prevent this from happening, one needs to know about the desires in one's unconscious. Hence, one is able to become a better member of a society and live harmoniously within it.

As an author writes a story such as a fairy tale, he or she may unknowingly incorporate his or her unconscious desire in the tale (von Franz, 1993). Cashdan (1999) finds that there is a pattern in a story that can help one discover the desire communicated in the tale. This pattern that Cashdan (1999) describes is stated in the section which is called, "Journey to the Center of the Self" (p. 31). Applying this pattern is helpful to discover one's unconscious desire in one's mind.

This paper will apply archetypal theory into a reading of six tales. The purpose is to show that the goal of reading a story can be not only to uncover the meaning of the story, but also to understand oneself better. The chosen six tales are *The Salad*, *The Nose*, *Cherry or the Frog-Bride*, *Jorinda and Jorindel*, *The Crows and the Soldier*, and *The Blue Light*. The six tales are all taken from Brothers Grimm's (1996) *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. This paper will first discuss the major meaning of each of the six tales. Then, this paper will apply archetypal theory into the reading of the six stories. After that, some questions will be offered for teachers to use in the classroom. These questions can also be used by college students as they engage in reading stories. It is hoped that teachers and students can have a chance to have one more way to understand a story.



## 2. The Meaning of Each of the Six Tales

*The Salad* was a story about a huntsman whose kind heart enabled him to acquire a bird's heart that produced a piece of gold daily and a magic cloak to go anywhere. The bird's heart and the magic cloak were stolen away by the old fairy and her daughter. The huntsman accidentally found two types of salads that had magical power. By using the magic salads, he was able to get back the bird's heart and the magic cloak. In addition, he married the old fairy's daughter. The meaning of this story was that the huntsman's kind heart and good luck earned him wealth and a beautiful wife.

*The Nose* was a story about three soldiers whose friendly attitudes towards a little old man in a red jacket enabled them to each obtain a magic item. The first soldier got an old cloak. This cloak could fulfill anything he wished for. The second soldier acquired a purse in which he could take out as much gold as he wanted. The third soldier received a horn. The horn, when played, could attract crowds to get together to dance and forget their situations. After a while, the three soldiers felt bored, so they visited a neighboring king. The king only had one daughter who was a witch. The witch was cunningly able to take away all three magic items from the three soldiers. With the help of the little old man in a red jacket again, the three soldiers were able to deceive the king's daughter and retrieve their items back. The meaning of this story was that the good attitudes of the three soldiers towards the little old man in a red jacket helped them acquire wealth and protect their wealth.

*Cherry or the Frog-Bride* was a story about a king who assigned three tasks for his three sons to accomplish. The king wanted to pass his throne on to the son who could complete all three tasks. For each task, the youngest prince did not know what to do, so each time he wandered to a bridge. It just so happened that Cherry the frog was in the water under the bridge every time the youngest prince came. Cherry the frog would always ask the youngest prince what the matter was. She then helped him accomplish the three tasks. The youngest prince became the next king and married Cherry who had already turned back into a person. The meaning of this story was that Cherry's kind heart won over a husband who was from a high class and was rich.

*Jorinda and Jorindel* was a story about an old fairy who took away Jorindel's girlfriend, Jorinda. Jorindel's true love towards his girlfriend enabled Jorindel to go to the castle and rescue Jorinda back. The meaning of this story was that a man's true love could embolden him to risk his life to rescue his beloved one.

*The Crows and the Soldier* was a story about a soldier who worked hard and saved enough money to live off of for the rest of his life. Then, his money got stolen by his two fellow soldiers. Since the first soldier was a hard-working, frugal person, he had good luck by gaining information from three crows. This enabled the first soldier to marry the princess, to become a high class person, and to move into the palace. He became even richer than he was before. The two fellow soldiers were dishonest and greedy. This caused them to be pecked by the crows and left to die. The meaning of the story was that when one worked hard and was frugal, one would have a good consequence. On the other hand, when one was dishonest, one would have a bad consequence.



*The Blue Light* was a story about a soldier who served the king for many years. The king dismissed the soldier because the soldier was old and had many wounds. The king stopped paying the soldier his wages because the king only paid those who served him. The soldier felt like this was unfair. Feeling desperate, the soldier wandered into a forest. There, he met a witch. He outwitted the witch to get the possession of the blue light. He was lucky to have this blue light because this light could empower him to fulfill any wishes he desired. By using the blue light, he defeated the malicious witch by having her hanged on the gallows. He also got his revenge on the king by having the king's daughter do servant's work, just like the soldier did servant's work for the king. In the end, the king gave the soldier the kingdom for the soldier to rule and the king's daughter for the soldier to marry. The meaning of the story was that one who was treated unfairly could get lucky. He or she was thus able to take revenge on the person who treated him or her unfairly. In the end, this person might be treated equally to the person who mistreated him or her.

When one reads a story with the focus of finding the meaning of the story, one can discover that having a good attitude and doing kind deeds in the world can bring about positive consequences. This can be seen in these chosen six tales. When applying archetypal theory into these six tales, one can find that one may understand these stories in a different way.

### 3. The Application of Archetypal Theory into the Six Tales

As one applies archetypal theory into the six tales, one can learn aspects about oneself. *The Salad* was a story about one detecting the greedy side of oneself. *The Nose* was a story about one uncovering the deceptive side of oneself. *Cherry or the Frog-Bride* was a story about one noticing the jealous side of oneself. *Jorinda and Jorindel* was a story about one discovering one's strong lust for young ladies and one's powerful desire to control them. *The Crows and the Soldier* was a story about one finding out one's strong desire for money. *The Blue Light* was a story about one discovering one's strong need for money and power. The following section is the explanations that are given about how each story reveals an aspect of oneself.

#### 3.1 *The Salad*

As the huntsman walked into a wood, he sank into his unconscious realm. There, his deepest desires got fulfilled. He had a bird's heart that gave him a piece of gold every morning. This provided him with never-ending wealth. He had a wishing-cloak that fulfilled his desire to go anywhere he wanted. Although he had these two magic items, he felt that he was still not fully satisfied. So, he went into a wood again. There he saw a castle. At one of the windows in the castle, he saw an old woman and her beautiful daughter. The huntsman encountered the old woman who was called a fairy, but in reality was a witch. The old woman had her daughter steal the bird's heart from the huntsman. Then, the old woman acquired a piece of gold from under her daughter's pillow every morning. After that, the old woman told her daughter that she wanted her daughter to get the wishing-cloak from the huntsman. The daughter thought that this was a bad idea because they had already taken away the huntsman's bird's



heart that had produced his wealth. The daughter actually pointed out to her mother that her mother was greedy. As the huntsman had the bird's heart and the wishing-cloak, he still wished to pursue the old woman's beautiful daughter who was in a higher position than the huntsman. The huntsman was the same type of person as the old woman was because they were both greedy. They both wanted wealth, status, and the ability to go anywhere. The old woman represented the huntsman's greedy, unhealthy side. As the old woman in her donkey form was hit three times a day and fed hay once a day, she eventually died. The huntsman thus understood the consequence of being greedy. He understood the importance of overcoming his greedy desire and letting his non-greedy side win out.

### 3.2 *The Nose*

The three soldiers went into their unconscious realm as they entered a deep, gloomy wood and spent one night there. They came upon good fortune by acquiring an old cloak, a purse, and a horn. The old cloak could give the first soldier whatever he wished for. The purse was full of gold. The second soldier could take as much gold as he wanted from it. The horn could make people happy when the third soldier played a tune on it. The three soldiers used the old cloak to get a nice castle to live in. After a while, the three soldiers thought that it was not good to stay at home. They took their riches and servants to visit a neighboring king. When the king treated the three soldiers like sons of kings, the three soldiers kept silent about their status. The king had one daughter, who was a witch. She knew that the three soldiers had special magic gifts. She obtained the second soldier's magic purse by deceiving him. Then, she skillfully acquired the old cloak from the first soldier. Finally, she stole the third soldier's horn by devising a scheme. The three soldiers returned back to their poor condition. The three soldiers were then lucky again to find a way to deceive the princess to get the three items back. The second soldier undertook the mission. First, he disguised himself as a gardener's boy to sell the apples to the princess for her to eat. Then, the second soldier disguised himself as a doctor to pretend that he had medicine that could cure the princess. He deceived the princess to believe that she needed to return the three stolen items for the medicine to be effective. The princess believed the deception and returned the three items. The princess represented the unhealthy, deceptive side of the three soldiers. The three soldiers were the same type of person as the princess was. Since the princess deceived the three soldiers, she was punished by having her nose grow very long. This consequence was terrible enough for the three soldiers to realize that it was important for them to get rid of their unhealthy, deceptive part. They also understood that they should use their honest part of themselves to interact with others. From that time on, they were content to stay at home.

### 3.3 *Cherry or the Frog-Bride*

In this story, the abbess heard the three princes fighting and found that Cherry was the cause behind their fighting. Because of this problem and the previous anger caused by Cherry eating the abbess's cherries, the abbess uttered a spell, which turned Cherry into an ugly frog and caused Cherry to live in a faraway place. The abbess was a jealous person, as she was jealous of Cherry's beauty. This



was why she wanted Cherry to become an ugly creature and stay in a remote place where no one could see her beauty. It was at this time when Cherry crossed into her unconscious realm. In addition, the ladies that the first and second princes brought home were competing with Cherry in regards to who was the most beautiful female. Everyone agreed that Cherry was the most beautiful lady. So, the king commended to have the rest of the beauty contestants tossed into the sea to drown. Cherry was there, but Cherry did not do anything to help the other ladies. This was odd, because previously Cherry actively helped the youngest prince accomplish the three tasks the king had requested. Cherry was jealous of the other ladies' beauty because their beauty probably could have caused problems for Cherry later. Cherry was a jealous person, too. Cherry and the abbess were the same type of person, as they both were jealous of others' beauty. Even though Cherry did not defeat the abbess, she allowed the other ladies to be thrown into the sea to die. As Cherry saw that one's jealousy could cause others' tragedies, she recognized the importance of having one's jealous side repressed and having one's good side come forth.

#### 3.4 *Jorinda and Jorindel*

As Jorindel walked into a wood, he sank into his unconscious realm. There, he encountered an old fairy who was a witch. The old fairy used her spell to turn Jorinda into a nightingale and put her in a cage. The old fairy put this cage with her other seven hundred caged birds. Even though she had many birds in cages, the old fairy was greedy to add one more caged bird to her collection. The old fairy had power and was greedy enough to confine and gather as many pretty girls as she wanted. The old fairy represented the bad part of Jorindel's self. This was because Jorindel desired to have as many pretty girls as he wanted, especially the prettiest girl. Jorindel faced his bad side by turning all the birds back into their original forms so that they could be free. Jorindel worked hard to repress his bad side which lusted for having and controlling many beautiful girls, while at the same time he had the good part of himself come forth. This was evident as Jorindel chose to live happily with Jorinda for the rest of their lives. The witch did not die. This showed Jorindel's bad part still remained. Even so, Jorindel recognized that he wanted to have his good side come out.

#### 3.5 *The Crows and the Soldier*

The two fellow soldiers knew that the first soldier had a good sum of money to live peacefully throughout his retirement. The two fellow soldiers persuaded the first soldier to leave the town where they lived. The two fellow soldiers had a quarrel with the first soldier, beat the first soldier up, and took the first soldier's money. The two fellow soldiers had a strong desire for money. Although the first soldier lost all his money, he gained even more money through his good luck. He did this by taking the information from three crows without their permission. He used this information to marry the princess, become a high class person, and live in the palace. The first soldier is the same type of person as the two fellow soldiers because they all had a strong lust for money and used a dishonest way to get it. The two fellow soldiers were seriously injured by the crows and left to die. This left the



first soldier to realize that the two fellow soldiers wrongly used their strong desire for money and therefore received a bad consequence. The first soldier came to understand that one's strong desire for money should not cause one to become dishonest.

### 3.6 *The Blue Light*

The soldier served the king for many years. The king let the soldier go because he was old and had many wounds. The king did not pay anyone who was not serving him, so the king no longer paid the soldier. In despair, the soldier roamed into a forest. At this point, the soldier sank into his unconscious realm. He saw a house that had a light in it. He went to the house. He met a witch. He asked the witch for something to eat and drink and also to spend one night in her home. The witch made the soldier do servant's work, like dig all round the witch's garden. On the next day, the witch asked the soldier to chop up a load of wood and make the pieces of wood small. Then, the witch asked the soldier to go down into the well to fetch the blue light for her. When the soldier was about to give the blue light to the witch, he sensed that the witch was only going to take the blue light and leave him in the well. The soldier refused to give the blue light to the witch. The witch became angry and let the soldier drop again into the well. She then left. In the well, the soldier realized that he had a tobacco pipe that was half full. He wanted to smoke it, so he used the blue light to light his pipe. Then, he found out that the blue light was a magic item. When he lit his pipe with the blue light, a little black dwarf would appear and do for him whatever the soldier commanded. On the way out of the well, the little black dwarf showed the soldier the witch's hidden treasures. The soldier carried off as much gold as he could. Then, the soldier used the blue light to have the witch brought to the judge. The judge killed the witch by having her hanged on the gallows. The soldier used the magic item to avenge the king by having the king's daughter do servant's work. The revenge did not stop here. In the end, the soldier was able to defeat the king to obtain rulership of the kingdom and to get the king's daughter for his wife.

The witch was a person who liked to have people serve her and had a lot of money because she had hidden treasures. The witch wanted the blue light because she lusted for power. The king was a person who wanted people to serve him. He was a rich person and had power to rule over people. When the soldier saw the witch's hidden treasures, he carried away as much gold as he could. The soldier was a person who wanted to become rich. When the soldier discovered the function of the blue light, he used the blue light to have the king's daughter do servant's work for him. Later, he used the blue light to obtain the king's kingdom and the king's daughter as his wife. The soldier was the same type of person as the witch and the king were. They all wanted money and they all had a desire for power. Bad consequences could occur because of the strong desire for power. As a result, the witch needed to be defeated. This happened when she died by being hanged on the gallows. The king was defeated by losing his kingdom and his daughter. The soldier recognized the bad side of himself, which was wanting to be rich and having a strong desire for power. He realized that he needed to get rid of his bad side. Otherwise, he would have bad consequences just as the witch and the king had. He





also realized that he needed to have his good side come forth. That is, he needed to treat people fairly when he was rich and had power.

#### 4. Questions

The questions stated below hopefully can provide some help for teachers when they teach a story in class. Here is a suggested method to apply the questions. First, the teacher reads a story. After that, the students answer the questions. Finally, the teacher gives some feedback regarding the students' answers so that the students can gain a deeper understanding of the story. Students can also use these questions on their own to understand a story as they engage in reading the story. These questions center on the good and bad characters' desires as well as the consequences that result from acting upon these desires.

1. Who is the main character?
2. Who is the bad character?
3. What happens when the good and bad characters meet each other?
4. What does the bad character desire?
5. Does the good character have the same desires as the bad character does?
6. What are the bad consequences the bad character gets?

#### 5. Conclusion

Reading a story to understand the major meaning of the story is a good way to engage in reading. However, many literary theoretical books include a plethora of theories that can be used to give different understandings to a story. One such theory is archetypal theory. Integrating the viewpoint of archetypal theory into a classroom can be a good choice because it may strengthen a teacher's teaching application of a tale and it can possibly benefit students' learning and understanding of a story and of themselves. Therefore, students can have a chance to grow.

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