

Chapter One. While Lacanian psychology ( and the critical theory produced by it ) acknowledges " the unconscious as the realm of repressed desire " , it romances with the Deconstructionist's view of using language to express the abstract ( metaphysical ) . The abstract expressed in the word ( language ) belongs to the unconscious desire whose attainment is illusive or unattainable . A more concrete and popular dimension of Psychological criticism is that which was founded on Carl Gustav Jung's Psychoanalysis commonly referred to as Jungian symbolism or Jungian criticism . The principle of Jungian criticism hinges on the assumption that all mortal beings have a common universal or what is technically termed collective unconscious ; within which individual and racial unconscious functions . Carl Gustav Jung and his followers posit that within the collective unconscious , individual and racial unconscious are found as archetypes ( universal symbols , forms of human experiences and pattern ) . In literature , archetypes are usually represented in recurring themes , characters , plots , events , settings and other indices of literary production . An important issue in archetypal criticism is the universality of those images , symbols , patterns and experiences called archetypes . Archetypes , though associated with history and the antiquity , they have serious implications for the contemporary society . For instance the theme of jealousy one finds in Kunene's Emperor Shaka the Great ( 1979 ) is what we find in Clark's The Ozidi Saga ( 1977 ) . The trickster symbolism associated with the tortoise is universal . The mother – image found in every literature featuring the mother figure is the same over the ages . Thus , archetypes are the appearances of " the primordial image of a figure , whether a demon , man or process that repeats itself in the course of history where creativity manifests . From the foregoing discussions on archetypes , it would be logical to argue that it is possible to subject all phenomena to archetypal criticism . Psychological or Psychoanalytical Criticism . This could be considered from the perspectives of Sigmund Freud ( 1856–1939 ) , Jacques Lacan and Carl Gustav Jung ( 1875–1961 ) . The centrality of psychological criticism is to define literature as an expression of the author's psyche pivoted on his or her unconscious being which requires an interpretation like a dream . A Freudian reading of A Walk in the Night ( 1974 ) for example reveals that Michael Adonis is violent because of his frustrated desire to live in South Africa that is devoid of racial bigotry . Modern archetypal critics include . Maud Bodkin , Masizi Kunene , John Pepper Clark among others