



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

200
1822 - 2022

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

**Myth and Mythology:
How Stories Shape the World
HPHP4006
Dr Sarah Reynolds**



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CREATIVE WORKSHOP

PART 1: Building a character.

PART 2: Writing a creative response to the text.

PART 3: Sharing our work.



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PART 1: Building a character

What clues can we take from the text? What do we know about Dinah?

- **Her name**
- **Her parents' names: Leah (Mother) and Jacob (Father)**
- **She went out to visit the women of the region**

Things that happen to her:

- **She is raped by Shechem**
- **Her father then agrees to give her to her rapist**
- **Her brothers, Simeon and Levi, avenge her and remove her from Shechem's house.**



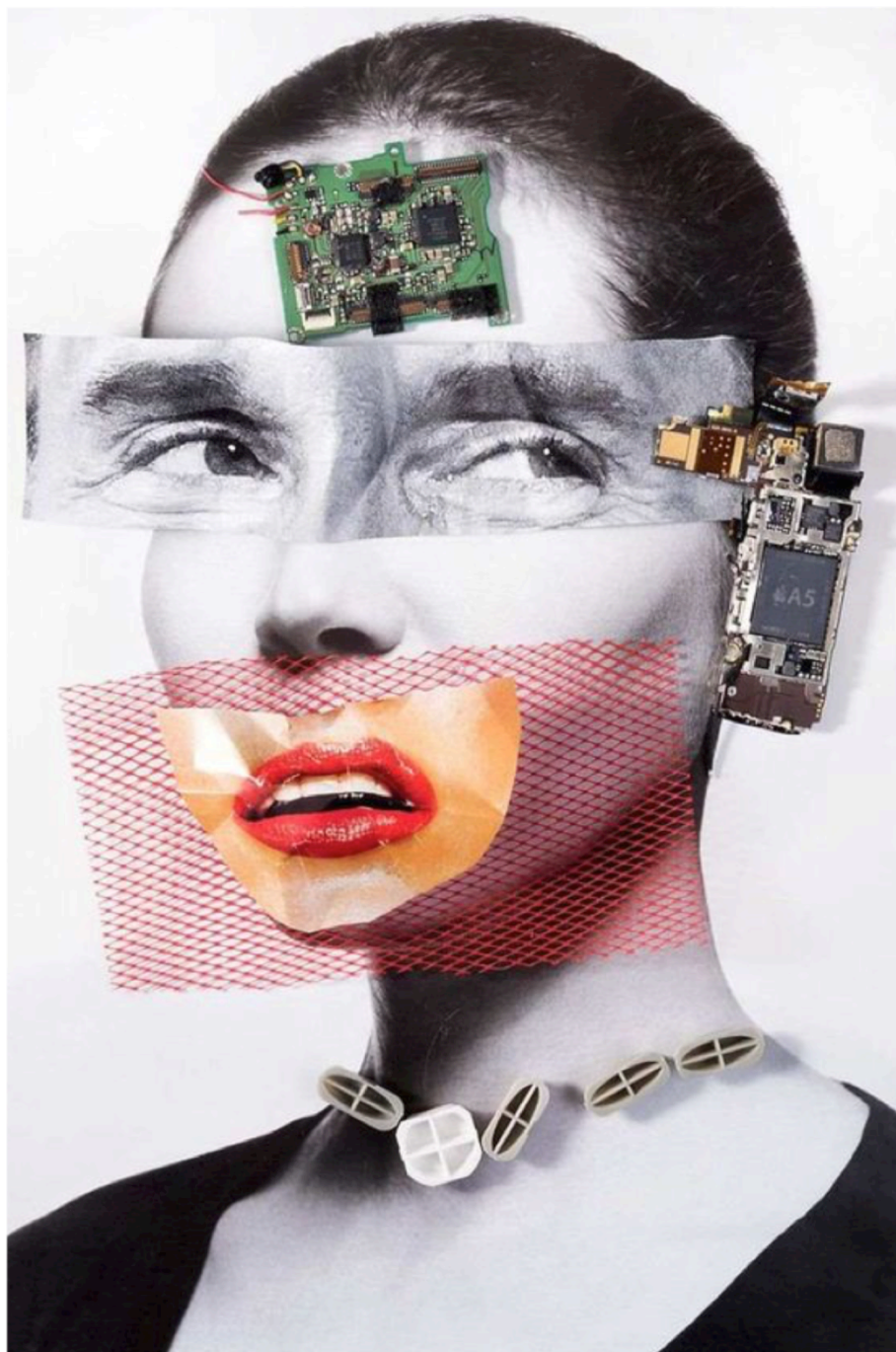
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What don't we know about Dinah?

- What does she look like?
- What kind of person is she?
- How does she like to spend her time?
- How does she feel about the people in her life?
- How does she feel about the world in which she lives?
- What are her passions?
- What kind of relationship does she have with her family?

These are all the sorts of questions we ask ourselves when we are writing characters.



APPEARANCE

1. What's the first thing people notice about her when she walks into the room?
2. Describe her hair (colour, texture, style)
3. How does she move? (if it helps, imagine that she were an animal)
4. What is her best feature?
5. Does she have any distinguishing marks? (Scars, tattoos, blemishes)
6. What are her teeth like?
7. Describe her hands.
8. Describe her favourite outfit.

BEDROOM

1. How big is her bedroom?

2. What is the décor like? Minimalist? Busy? Fussy? Prim? Think about the wallpaper, the soft furnishings, the colours and textures.

3. What does the room smell like? Perfume? Stuffy? Old books? Sweaty teenagers?

4. Is her room messy or tidy?

5. What is her favourite object in the room? A childhood toy? A photo? A treasured piece of jewellery?

6. What does she keep under her pillow?

7. What does she hide under the bed?





VOICE

1. What does her voice sound like? (Soft? Strident? Deep? Powerful? Rich? Smooth?)
2. What is her favourite word?
3. What is her accent?
4. What phrase or expression does she over-use?
5. Does she speak quickly? Slowly? Thoughtfully?
6. What is her biggest secret?
7. In whom does she confide her secrets?
8. What's the worst thing anyone has ever said to her?
9. What would she most like to say to her father?

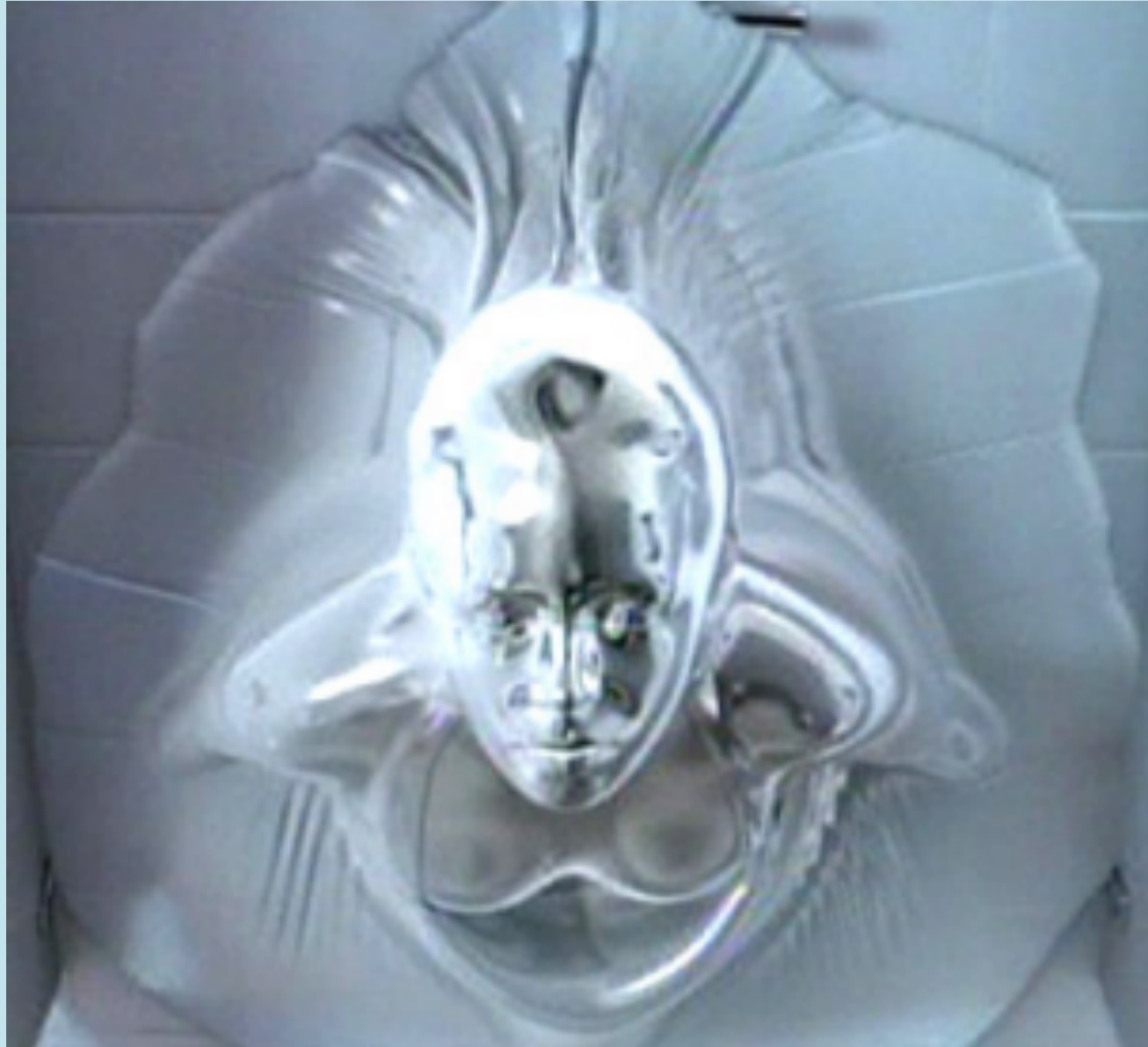
WHAT IF DINAH HAD AGENCY?



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WHAT IF DINAH LIVED HERE?



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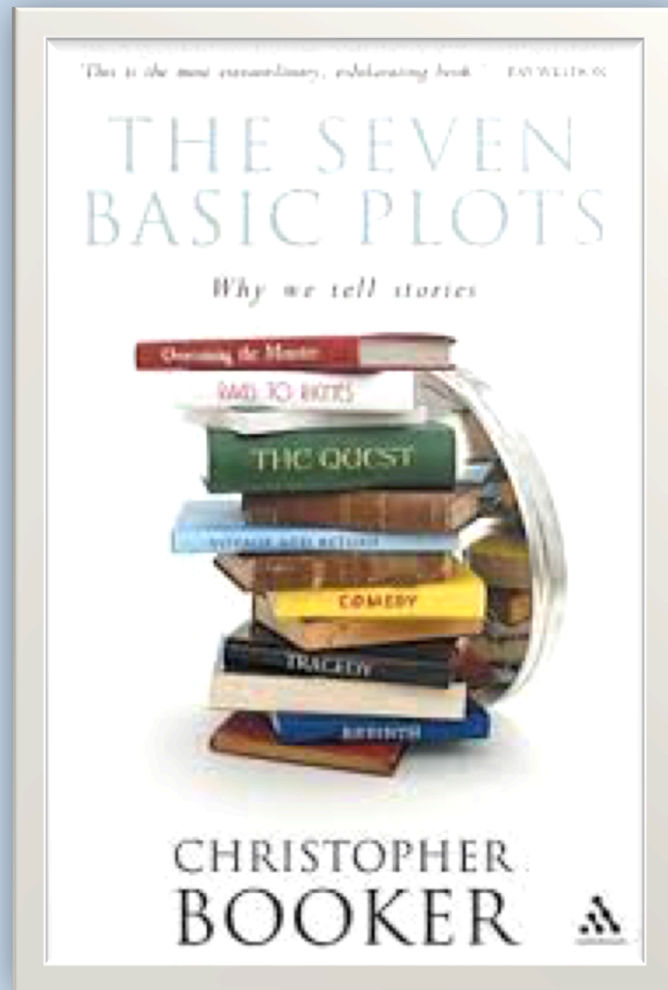
WHAT IF DINAH LIVED HERE?



WHAT IF DINAH LIVED HERE?



THE SEVEN BASIC PLOTS



- Overcoming the monster
- Rags to riches
- The quest
- Voyage and return
- Comedy
- Tragedy
- Rebirth

FORM



- Poem
- Flash fiction
- Play (radio? Stage?)
- Screenplay (TV? Film?)
- Short story
 - Memoir
 - Epistolary (Letters)
 - Diary
 - Narrative voice: 1st person, 2nd or 3rd?
 - Tense: present? Past?



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PART 2: Write a creative response to the text, using the new ‘Dinah’ character that you have created.



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PART 3: Share your work with the group. Everyone to offer considerate and constructive feedback.