Archetypal Analysis in Disney Movies

Purpose
The purpose of this assignment is for you to be able to identify the archetypes used in popular children’s movies and explain the significance behind the use of the archetypes.

Assignment
You will be required to view a Disney movie of your choice and analyze the use of archetypes within the movie. This assignment will be two-fold.

1. Create a Power Point on the use of the archetypes with explanation supporting how and why they serve the archetypal pattern.

Required slides (in no particular order):
- Intro to background of movie (only one slide, this presentation is not simply a plot summary)
- From what original piece of literature or moment in history was this movie inspired? (one slide)
- Archetypal analysis (as many as needed, no less than 6)
- 2 non-fiction slides (see examples at the bottom of this handout)

Remember, this is not just a movie review or a 3-5 minute movie synopsis. That will not receive a good grade! Your Power Point will be scored on organization, information, overall effect, and time put in. It needs to be at least 10 slides in length, and a title slide will make it 11. It should be professional and free from pointless background images and sound effects.

2. You will be presenting this analysis along with your Power Point, in a 3-5 minute presentation. You will receive a grade for the speaking part separate from the Power Point display.

Your presentation will be scored on preparedness, your ability to speak and not read, attention to the audience, the length, your composure and looking presentation appropriate.
Archetype suggestions:

**Character Archetypes**

**Analyst:** Can explain anything rationally. Ex: Mr. Spock

**Anti-hero:** The hero who didn’t ask to get involved but does. Ex: Sarah Connor, Wolverine

**Benefactor:** Has a whole lot of something he wants to share. Ex: Miss Havisham

**Bully:** Has no tolerance for weakness, especially in himself. Ex: Scut Farkus *(Christmas Story)*

**Bureaucrat:** Follows the rules no matter what. Hermione Granger

**Caretaker:** Cares for others. Ex: Digory Kirke

**Catalyst:** Makes things happen.

**Child:** Could be a literal child or just living like one. Ex: Wally McDoole, Peter Pan

**Coward:** Afraid of everything, controlled by fear. Ex: Adrian Monk, Cowardly Lion, Alexandra Rover

**Curmudgeon:** Irritable and cynical and proud of it. Ex: Ebenezer Scrooge

**Dreamer:** Longs to be something he isn’t. Ex: Annie, William Thatcher *(A Knight’s Tale)*

**Elder/Mentor/Teacher/Parent:** Been around long enough to know some vital information. Ex: Ben Kenobi, Mufassa

**Explorer/Wanderer:** Wants to see the world—could be running from something.

**Extraordinary man:** The guy who can do anything. Ex: Indiana Jones, James Bond

**Gossip:** Must be the first to know everything and the one to pass it on. Ex: Rachel Lynde

**Guardian:** Protects the weak.

**Hedonist/Thrill-seeker:** Lives for today in case tomorrow never comes.

**Herald/Messenger:** The bringer of news, good, bad, or necessary.

**Hermit/Loner:** Just wants to be left alone. Ex: Phil Hercules, Martin Riggs *(Lethal Weapon)*

**Hunter/Predator:** Can catch or kill anything. Ex: Terminator

**Innocent:** An inexperienced individual exposed to the evils in the world. Ex: Dorothy Gale

**Introvert:** Lives inside his shell to prevent anyone from seeing the real him. Ex: Gabriella Montez *(High School Musical)*

**Investigator:** Thrives on puzzles and riddles. Ex: Nancy Drew, Sherlock Holmes

**Judge/Mediator:** The arbitrator or peacemaker in a conflict.

**Leader:** Always knows the best thing to do—and people follow. Ex: William Wallace

**Magician/Wizard/Superpowers:** Has special powers or abilities. Ex: Superman, Harry Potter

**Manipulator:** Plays with people and situations to get what he wants. Ex: Scarlett O’Hara

**Martyr:** Willing to suffer or die for others or a cause.

**Masochist:** Finds pleasure in torturing himself, denying himself—may take on too much.

**Masquerader:** Pretends to be something he is not.

**Monster:** A depraved beast. Ex: Gollum, Grendel *(Beowulf)*

**Ordinary Man:** Your average Joe, just like you or me or the guy across the street. Ex: Dr. Richard Kimball, Frodo Baggins.

**Penitent:** Lives to atone for his sin.

**Perfectionist:** Every action and word must be flawless.

**Pleaser/Show-off:** Craves approval from anyone and may do anything to get it.

**Poet:** Life is art, be that through story or song or art or sculpture.

**Rebel/Revolutionary:** Stands opposed to the status quo and fights for his cause.

**Rogue:** Looks out for himself and no one else. Ex: Han Solo

**Saboteur/Betrayer:** For whatever reason, he will make sure something fails. Ex: Edmund Pevensie

**Samaritan:** Does good deeds wherever he goes.

**Scholar:** Wants to learn.

**Sensalist:** Addicted to feeling good about himself.

**Slave:** Does not belong to himself. Ex: Dobby the house elf

**Survivor:** Pulls through no matter what happens, doesn’t give up.

**Sycophant:** Self-seeking, flatterer, who works to please those in power. Ex: Smee *(Peter Pan)*

**Temptress:** Uses power (intellect, magic, beauty) to make others weak. Ex: Megara *(Hercules)*

**Thief:** Takes what he wants or needs. Ex: Philippe Gaston *(LadyHawke)*, Jean Valjean

**Trickster/Jester:** Always looking for the humor in a situation. Ex: Fred and George Weasley

**Tyrant:** Must be in control at all times. Ex: Captain Hook

**Victim:** Was hurt by someone or lives in fear that someone will hurt him. Ex: Claireece “Precious” Jones

**Villain:** Seeks to destroy/trap the hero. Ex: Evil Queen in *Snow White*, Lex Luthor

**Waif:** Appears innocent and weak and often relies on the pity of others. Ex: The Kid *(Dick Tracy)*
Plot Archetypes
1. Overcoming the Monster
2. Rags to Riches
3. The Quest
4. Voyage and Return
5. Comedy
6. Tragedy
7. Rebirth

Miscellaneous

Colors
A. Black (darkness) – chaos, mystery, the unknown, before existence, death, the unconscious, evil
B. Red – blood, sacrifice; violent passion, disorder, sunrise, birth, fire, emotion, wounds, death, sentiment, mother, Mars, the note C, anger, excitement, heat, physical stimulation
C. Green – hope, growth, envy, Earth, fertility, sensation, vegetation, death, water, nature, sympathy, adaptability, growth, Jupiter and Venus, the note G, envy
D. White (light) – purity, peace, innocence, goodness, Spirit, morality, creative force, the direction East, spiritual thought
E. Orange – fire, pride, ambition, egoism, Venus, the note D
F. Blue – clear sky, the day, the sea, height, depth, heaven, religious feeling, devotion, innocence, truth, spirituality, Jupiter, the note F, physical soothing and cooling
G. Violet – water, nostalgia, memory, advanced spirituality, Neptune, the note B
H. Gold – Majesty, sun, wealth, corn (life dependency), truth
I. Silver – Moon, wealth

Numbers
A. Three – the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Ghost); Mind, Body, Spirit, Birth, Life, Death
B. Four – Mankind (four limbs), four elements, four seasons
C. Six – devil, evil
D. Seven – Divinity (3) + Mankind (4) = relationship between man and God, seven deadly sins, seven days of week, seven days to create the world, seven stages of civilization, seven colors of the rainbow, seven gifts of Holy Spirit.

Shapes
A. Oval – woman, passivity
B. Triangle – communication, between heaven and earth, fire, the number 3, trinity, aspiration, movement upward, return to origins, sight, light
C. Square – pluralism, earth, firmness, stability, construction, material solidity, the number four
D. Rectangle – the most rational, most secure
E. Cross – the Tree of life, axis of the world, struggle, martyrdom, orientation in space
F. Circle – Heaven, intellect, thought, sun, the number two, unity, perfection, eternity, oneness, celestial realm, hearing, sound
G. Spiral – the evolution of the universe, orbit, growth, deepening, cosmic motion, relationship between unity and multiplicity, macrocosm, breath, spirit, water
H. Mountain – height, mass, loftiness, center of the world, ambition, goals
I. Valley – depression, low-points, evil, unknown
J. Sun – Hero, son of Heaven, knowledge, the Divine eye, fire, life force, creative-guiding force, brightness, splendor, active awakening, healing, resurrection, ultimate wholeness
K. Water – passive, feminine
L. Rivers/Streams – life force, life cycle
M. Stars – guidance
N. Wind – Holy Spirit, life, messenger
O. Ice/Snow – coldness, barrenness
P. Clouds/Mist – mystery, sacred
Q. Rain – life giver
R. Steam – transformation to the Holy Spirit

Nature
A. Air – activity, creativity, breath, light, freedom (liberty), movement
B. Ascent – height, transcendence, inward journey, increasing intensity
C. Center – thought, unity, timelessness, spacelessness, paradise, creator, infinity
D. Descent – unconscious, potentialities of being, animal nature
E. Duality – Yin-Yang, opposites, complements, positive-negative, male-female, life-death
F. Earth – passive, feminine, receptive, solid
G. Fire – the ability to transform, love, life, health, control, sun, God, passion, spiritual energy, regeneration
H. Lake – mystery, depth, unconscious
I. Crescent moon – change, transition
U. Cave – feminine  
V. Lightning – intuition, inspiration  
W. Tree – where we learn, tree of life, tree of knowledge  
X. Forest – evil, lost, fear  

Objects  
A. Feathers – lightness, speed  
B. Shadow – our dark side, evil, devil  
C. Masks – concealment  
D. Boats/Rafts – safe passage  
E. Bridge – change, transformation  
F. Right hand – rectitude, correctness  
G. Left hand – deviousness  
H. Feet – stability, freedom  
I. Skeleton – mortality  
J. Heart – love, emotions  
K. Hourglass – the passage of time  

Non-Fiction Slide Explanation  

All presentations are required to have at least 2 slides that feature non-fiction information somehow tied in to the movie.  
Examples:

- Something related to the life or career of the author/producer  
- Information on the making of the movie  
- Details about the actual inspiration. For example, if you chose Pocahontas, you could feature information about the actual Pocahontas’s life.  
- Focus and explain the main characters in a realistic way. For example, take Ursula and Sebastian from The Little Mermaid and discuss scientific facts about the octopus and crab.  
- Feature a recipe from a movie such as “the grey stuff” in Beauty and the Beast or ratatouille from Ratatouille  
- And countless more!