

- Approaches to Postcolonial Criticism: Questions –

- A. How does the literary text, explicitly or allegorically, represent various aspects of colonial oppression?
- B. What person(s) or groups does the work identify as "other" or stranger? How are such persons/groups described and treated?
- C. What does the text reveal about the operations of cultural difference - the ways in which race, religion, class, gender, sexual orientation, cultural beliefs, and customs combine to form individual identity - in shaping our perceptions of ourselves, others, and the world in which we live?
- D. How does the text respond to or comment upon the characters, themes, or assumptions of a canonized (colonialist) work?
- E. Are there meaningful similarities among the literatures of different post-colonial populations?
- F. How does a literary text in the Western canon reinforce or undermine colonialist ideology through its representation of colonialization and/or its inappropriate silence about colonized peoples? (Tyson, 2006: 378-379)
- G. Describe the two or more cultures exhibited in the text. What are the worldviews of each of the cultures? What does each value? What does each reject?
- H. What happens in the text when the two cultures clash, when one sees itself as superior to another?
- I. What are the forms of resistance against colonial control?
- J. What does the text reveal about the politics and/or psychology of anti-colonialist resistance?
- K. How does the superior or privileged culture's hegemony affect the colonized culture?
- L. How do the colonized people view themselves? Is there any change in this view by the end of the text?
- M. What are the characteristics of the language of the two cultures? How are they alike? Different?
- N. Is the language of the dominant culture used as a form of oppression? Suppression?
- O. In what ways is the colonized culture silenced?
- P. Are there any emergent forms of postcolonial identity after the departure of the colonizers?
- Q. What does the text reveal about the problematics of post-colonial identity, including the relationship between personal and cultural identity and such issues as double consciousness and hybridity?

