

National Romanticism Research Project and Integrated Paper

Fall 2019

Examples of thesis statements for Part I and Part II
using Britain and “Mother Goose”

Directions:

- Pick, from a list of countries and their folk tales, one 19th century country and consider how an author reveals historical, political, social, and/or cultural values in one or more of its traditional folk/fairy tales.
- Analyze the country's 19th century goals and values—what it wanted to project—and show how its folk tale uses language, plot, characterization, and/or setting to forward themes for a particular audience and purpose.

You will write a two-part paper: each part will be guided by its own thesis statement

- The **first half** of your paper will analyze 19th century historical events in your assigned country
 - To do this you will craft a (first) history-based research question, answer it with a thesis, and then create an outline detailing the facts and analysis that prove your thesis. You should base this in the themes of your tale.
- The **second half** of your paper will analyze the language of your folk tale, showing how plot, motifs, and historical diction create meaning for particular audiences
 - You will craft a (second) literature-based research question about the story's context and the cultural values the narrative conveys; then, you'll answer your question with a thesis and then create an outline detailing the facts and analysis that prove your thesis.

Countries and their fairy tales

- Argentina – “Rice from the Ashes”
- Baltic states – “Three princes and their beasts”
- Chile – “The Enchanted Cow” and “The Parrot Prince” OR “Crystal the Wise”
- Cuba – “The nobleman’s daughter and the charcoal mother’s son”
- Denmark – “The Little Mermaid”
- France – “Beauty and the Beast”
- Germany – “Cinderella” OR “Little Red Cap”
- Ireland – “The Fate of the Children of Lir”
- Mexico – “Mistress Lucia” and “What the Owls Said”
- Russia – “The Frog Princess”
- Serbia/The Balkans – “Bash Chelik”

The first half of your paper will analyze 19th century historical events in your assigned country

Part I Thesis Example:

Historically, inter-British prejudice fomented discord—both violent and private—and perpetuated socio-economic and political divisions that would fracture the British Empire.

The second half of your paper will analyze the language of your folk tale, showing the author creates meaning for a particular audience and purpose

Part II Thesis Example:

*****Using the texts that appear on the next three screens, consider how the author of the fairy tales has created meaning for a contemporary audience.*****



There were once two cats of Kilkenny,
Each thought there was one cat too many;
So they fought and they fit,
And they scratched and they bit,
Till, excepting their nails
And the tips of their tails,
Instead of two cats, there weren't any.



Taffy was a Welshman,
Taffy was a thief,
Taffy came to my house
And stole a piece of beef.



I went to Taffy's house,
Taffy wasn't in,
I jumped upon his Sunday hat
And poked it with a pin.



Taffy was a Welshman,
Taffy was a sham,
Taffy came to my house
And stole a leg of lamb.



I went to Taffy's house,
Taffy was away,
I stuffed his socks with sawdust
And filled his shoes with clay.

Taffy was a Welshman,
Taffy was a cheat,
Taffy came to my house
And stole a piece of meat.



I went to Taffy's house,
Taffy was in bed,
I took a marrow bone
And beat him on the head.

Fe, fi, fo, fum,
I smell the blood of an Englishman;
Be he alive or be he dead,
I'll grind his bones to make my bread.



The first half of your paper will analyze 19th century historical events in your assigned country

Part I Thesis Example:

Historically, inter-British prejudice fomented discord—both violent and private—and perpetuated socio-economic and political divisions that would fracture the British Empire.

The second half of your paper will analyze the language of your folk tale, showing the author creates meaning for a particular audience and purpose

Part II Thesis Example:

In “The Fairy Tales of Mother Goose,” tales that use youthfully appealing rhyme and zoomorphism reinforce historical British prejudices, resulting in the intergenerational indoctrination of racist tribalism to literate children.

The first half of your paper will analyze 19th century historical events in your assigned country

Part I Thesis Example:

Historically, Britain's culture provided professional, financial, and political opportunities for men that were not available to women, halving the workforce and weakening the British economy.

The second half of your paper will analyze the language of your folk tale, showing the author creates meaning for a particular audience and purpose

Part II Thesis Example:

*****Using the texts that appear on the next three screens, analyze how the author of the nursery rhyme has created meaning for a contemporary audience and write a thesis statement as a table group.*****

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater,
Had a wife and couldn't keep her;
He put her in a pumpkin shell
And there he kept her very well.





Little maid, pretty maid; whither goest thou?
Down in the meadow to milk my cow.
Shall I go with thee? No, not now;
When I send for thee, then come thou.



When I was a bachelor I lived by myself,
And all the bread and cheese I got I laid up on the shelf;
The rats and the mice, they made such a strife,
I had to go to London to buy me a wife.

The streets were so bad and the lanes were so narrow,
I was forced to bring my wife home in a wheelbarrow.
The wheelbarrow broke and my wife had a fall;
Down came wheelbarrow, little wife and all.



The first half of your paper will analyze 19th century historical events in your assigned country

Part I Thesis Example:

Historically, Britain's culture provided professional, financial, and political opportunities for men that were not available to women, halving the workforce and weakening the British economy.

The second half of your paper will analyze the language of your folk tale, showing the author creates meaning for a particular audience and purpose

Part II Thesis Example:

In "The Fairy Tales of Mother Goose, tales that use youthfully appealing rhyme and zoomorphism reinforce historical British prejudices, resulting in the intergenerational indoctrination of misogynist literate children.

National Romanticism Research Project

Define NATIONALISM

Define ROMANTICISM

Nationalism noun

1: loyalty and devotion to a nation

especially : a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations

2: a nationalist movement or government

Objective: Activate Prior Knowledge
In your table groups, discuss:

Define “romantic.”
(There are many ways
to do so.)

Romantic (adj.)

- 1: consisting of or resembling a romance
- 2: having no basis in fact : IMAGINARY
- 3: impractical in conception or plan : VISIONARY
- **4a : marked by the imaginative or emotional appeal of what is heroic, adventurous, remote, mysterious, or idealized**
- **4b** *often capitalized* : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of romanticism
- **4c : of or relating to music of the 19th century characterized by an emphasis on subjective emotional qualities and freedom of form; also : of or relating to a composer of this music**
- **5 a** : having an inclination for romance : responsive to the appeal of what is idealized, heroic, or adventurous
- **b** : marked by expressions of love or affection
- **c** : conducive to or suitable for lovemaking
- **6** : of, relating to, or constituting the part of the hero especially in a light comedy

Objective: Develop historical context

Identify the historical catalysts of romantic literature.

Romanticism

Historical Context

Objectives:

- Analyze how the ideology of ...
 - the French Revolution
 - the Enlightenment
 - British industrialization
- ...caused a change in thinking and writing that historians now call “Romanticism.”

Historical Context: The *French Revolution* impacted romantic writers.

- **French Revolution: 1787-1799**

- Marks the decline of powerful monarchies and churches and the rise of democracy and the power of the people

- Literary Consequence: Protagonists were common people rather than aristocracy

- Dickens' *Tale of Two Cities*
- Bronte's *Jane Eyre*

Historical Context: The *Industrial Revolution* impacted romantic writers.

- **British Industrialization: 1770-1850**
 - The economy of England changed from mostly agricultural to mostly industrial
- **Literary Consequence:** The I.R. showed Romantic authors the **horrors of industrialism:**
 - urban squalor: poor living conditions
 - a polluted natural and work environment,
 - lack of education
 - the alienation of people from nature
- **Romantics thought a return to nature could solve some of these problems**

Historical Context: The *Enlightenment* impacted romantic writers.

• **The Enlightenment: 1680-1820**

- “The Age of Reason” celebrated logic as literacy spread across Europe
- Enlightenment philosophers
 - Logic > Feelings

• Literary Consequence:

- Romantics return to emotion over logic
 - Feelings > Logic

Romantic Literature Historical Context Objectives:

- Analyze how the ideology of ...
 - the French Revolution
 - the Enlightenment
 - British industrialization

caused a change in thinking that affected romantic writers.

Objective: Develop historical context

Define “National
Romanticism”