

**Course Overview: *War of the Worlds* & *Prester John* & *Mysterious Affair at Styles***

A. WHO? (Characters)

- Who are the main heroes and villains in each of the three stories? how are they represented?
- Who are the main alien/foreign characters in each of the three stories? how are they represented?
- Who are the main female characters in each of the three stories? how are they represented?

B. WHERE? (Places)

- Discuss the similarities and differences between the main locations and landscapes described in the three stories.
- How important are traveling and journeys in the three stories?
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the physical and human geography of the worlds of the three stories.

C. WHEN? (Times)

- Discuss the similarities and differences between the temporal settings of the three stories.
- Discuss the sense of history encountered in the three stories.
- How important are the ideas of the cycle of the seasons, repetition and return in each of the three stories?

D. WHAT? (Events)

- How important are the ideas of adventure, mystery and romance in the three stories?
- Discuss the importance of the following activities in the three stories: hiding & spying; eating & drinking; killing & dying; hoping & praying; loving & hating.
- Discuss the importance of these ideas in the three narratives: friendship, sacrifice, betrayal, conflict, guilt, salvation.

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E. HOW? (Style and Tone)

- To what narrative genre or genres would you assign the three stories?
- Discuss the nature of the narrator (story-teller) in the three stories.
- Discuss the character and style of the language found in the three stories.

F. WHY? (Context and Theme)

- Discuss the treatment of the ideas of good and evil found in the three stories in relation to Christian or other religious beliefs.
- Discuss the treatment of war and conflict in the three stories in relation to the periods in which they were written.
- What are the main similarities and the main differences between the themes and values of the three stories?