

Please write a **2000-2500 word** essay in which you consider ANY TWO TEXTS that we have studied this term in relation to any of the statements below:

1. 'Fantasy characteristically attempts to compensate for a lack resulting from cultural constraints: it is a literature of desire, which seeks that which is experienced as absence and loss' (Rosemary Jackson). Discuss.
2. 'In fantasy there is nothing but the writer's vision of the world [...] there is only a construct built in a void, with every joint and seam and nail exposed.' (Ursula K. Le Guin). Discuss.
3. 'In every age the ruling social or intellectual class tends to project its ideals in some form of romance, where the virtuous heroes and beautiful heroines represent the ideals and the villains a threat to their ascendancy' (Northrop Frye). Discuss.
4. 'The value of myth is that it takes all the things you know and restores to them the rich significance which has been hidden by the veil of familiarity' (C.S. Lewis). Discuss.
5. 'Fantasy, abandoned by reason, produces impossible monsters; united with it, she is the mother of the arts and the origin of marvels.' (Francisco Goya). Discuss.
6. 'Phantasy, as a genuine art-form, is an extension rather than a negation of reality' (H.P. Lovecraft). Discuss.
7. 'The fantastic is a compensation that man provides for himself, at the level of imagination, for what he has lost at the level of faith' (Maurice Levy). Discuss.
8. 'There's simultaneously something rigorous and something playful in genre. It's about the positing of something impossible—whether not-yet-possible or never-possible—and then taking that impossibility and granting it its own terms and systematicity. It's carnivalesque in its impossibility and overturning of reality, but it's rationalist in that it pretends it is real' (China Miéville). Discuss.

For top marks:

- Consider (and quote from) some of the fantasy theory we've looked at that's relevant to your discussion – Todorov, Mendelsohn etc. Bring in some of your own wider reading on theories of Fantasy literature
- Don't try and cover the whole of the novel (s); pick out relevant scenes and themes
- If you've picked out scenes or themes then relate this to the wider context (e.g. to the novel as a whole, or even make reference to other works by the same author)
- Briefly quote from the texts to support your argument
- Relate to similar themes in the text as a whole
- Make scholarly references to similar examples in British fantasy literature (but be careful not to stray off topic)
- Bring in secondary criticism concerning your chosen texts
- Avoid sources such as Sparknotes, Shmoop and Wikipedia.
- Avoid storytelling
- Make your point; support it with a quotation from the text or from secondary analysis; back it up with your own discussion, analysis or interpretation.
- Quote from at least six texts: these should be referenced in your bibliography

### **Learning outcomes**

Relevance to question.

Evidence of reading and research.

Structure of argument and clarity of expression.

Independent thinking and originality.

Grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc.

Awareness of critical and theoretical debates.

Referencing conventions and bibliography.