

Find Magic in the Media

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My creative learning idea has to do with building a relationship with a text, understanding some components and analyzing their use. For instance, we are examining the nature of Magic in Arthuriana. I start with assumptions about this concept and encourage students to give familiar examples from popular media.

We examine what constitutes the Magical in other genres, like mythology, folklore and fairy tales. We go over the different kinds of Magic used by these genres, like sympathetic and cause/effect. We compare it to the element of the Magical found in Arthuriana, and examine its relationship to other elements, like the landscapes and politics.

For an assignment, students are asked to pick one story from Arthuriana and analyze the use of Magic in it. Resources and references for this assignment are freely available online (a suggested website is www.timelessmyths.com) and no printed texts are required.

This assignment also encourages students to polish their writing skills, since they have to acknowledge all sources they cite, as well as their critical thinking skills, since it forces them to use inference and logic.

