

Annotated Bibliography

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Independent Reading Project Annotated Bibliography

Big Question: Why is society obsessed with superheroes?

Book #1 (fiction): *House of Hades*

Book #2 (fiction): *City of Bones*

Book #3 (nonfiction): *Superman on the Couch- What Superheroes Really Tell Us about Ourselves and Our Society*

Boeree, George. "Sigmund Freud." *Sigmund Freud*. N.p., 2009. Web. 15 Nov. 2013.
<<http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/freud.html>>.

This source encompasses the biography of Sigmund Freud. It discusses his life story and then proceeds to discuss his developed theories on id, ego, and super ego. The author also discusses more of Freud's theories on personalities. It then analyzes developmental stages of the human brain.

This source adequately summarizes and explains Freud's theories and helps the readers comprehend them. I like how the site utilized diagrams to represent Freud's perception of how the brain works. I believe that this is a credible source because it had fully developed explanations of his theories. The author knew a lot on the topic and was able to fully explain using both diagrams and text, how id, ego, and super-ego affect humans.

Although this source was effective in better comprehending my Big Question, this had nothing to do with my Independent Reading books. *House of Hades* and *City of Bones* were examples of how Danny Fingeroth explained his reasoning behind society's obsession with superheroes in *Superman on the Couch*, and this website encouraged me to make my own hypotheses on the connection between society's obsession with superheroes and id, ego, and super ego. I think that the connection lies in the fact that the superheroes portrayed in society have less prominent id's because their wish to put their desires first is subservient to their desire to help others, which means that they have a more prominent superego because they have effectively learned the difference between what is right and wrong. I think that people admire this because they aspire to differentiate between right and wrong, which superheroes somehow always know how to do.

Holmes, Linda. "The Id, The Ego And The Superhero: What Makes Batman Tick?" *NPR*. NPR, n.d. Web. 15 Nov. 2013.
<<http://www.npr.org/blogs/monkeysee/2012/07/15/156779114/the-id-the-ego-and-the-superhero-what-makes-batman-tick>>.

This source discusses what the author thinks how people who critically observe Batman perceive. She advocates that many critics think that there is something wrong with Batman- and other superheroes- because of their selfless nature. She later states that Batman is selfless and giving and that is why he acts selflessly.

Although this source was interesting, I didn't find it particularly credible or helpful. I read it before I read my source that discussed Freud's theories, so it was the best source that I found regarding id, ego, and superego. I do not believe this source was credible because it was posted on a blog; the title was not discussed in the source- she never once mentioned the word ego- and advertisements could be found throughout the webpage.

This source does not connect with either of my fiction books, *House of Hades* or *City of Bones*. It does, however, state ideas represented in my non-fiction book. She implied that people want a superhero in real life to save them from their stressful lives which is discussed in the first chapter of *Superman on the Couch*. However, Freud's theory was discussed in neither the website nor the book- although it was represented in the title of the website.

Thulin, Chase. "Batman:." *Sequart Research Literacy Organization*. Sequart Research & Literacy Organization, Feb.-Mar. 2013. Web. 15 Nov. 2013.
<<http://sequart.org/magazine/18713/batman-the-freudian-super-hero/>>.

This source also discusses Freudian theory and how it affects Batman, specifically. It claims that Batman is the persona of Freud's theory. Batman has three personas: Batman (id), Bruce Wayne to his friends (ego), and Bruce Wayne to the world (super-ego). It also argues that Batman's wish to destroy the enemy is pure id because it's what he truly wants.

I thought that this source was fairly credible; it had a fully developed interpretation of superheroes and their relationship in regards to Freud's theory. I thought that his interpretation of superheroes having three different personas was interesting because it disproved my theory that superheroes have less prominent characteristics than others in regards to Freud's theory.

This source reminded me of *House of Hades*. In *House of Hades*, Percy acts to protect himself from the monsters of Tartarus, which would represent the id. He displays ego when he makes a plan with Annabeth to escape Tartarus. Finally, he portrays super-ego when he differentiates what is right from what is wrong when discussing things at Camp Half-Blood (and in this book), with Bob, the nice, giant Titan.

Toft, David. "Why the Obsession with Superheroes?" *SCAN Student Comment and News Why the Obsession with Superheroes Comments*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 Nov. 2013.
<<http://scan.lusu.co.uk/carolynne/features/why-the-obsession-with-superheroes/>>.

This source advocates that people are obsessed with superheroes because of current events in the world and their wish to be protected from them. Likewise, this source states that possibly people have an interest in morals and how superheroes always know the precisely correct action to take.

I believe that this source is credible because there are few advertisements and the information is displayed in a highly organized manner. Not only is the font easy to read, but it is also separated from the few advertisements in the margin. The diction of the author was eloquent and easily comprehended.

This reminds me of my previously mentioned connection to *House of Hades*. However, it contradicts the argument of *Superheroes on the Couch*. *Superheroes on the Couch* advocates that

people have always been obsessed with Superheroes since ancient times. It states that the Epic of Gilgamesh was one of the first instances of this. It also implies that for many, leading up until the creation of Super Man, God and other religious figures were Superheroes of the people. This implies that superheroes have indeed existed since the human existence and were not increased in popularity by 9/11.

Wright, David. "Why Are We Obsessed With Superheroes?" Audio blog post. *ABC News*. ABC News Network, 6 June 2013. Web. 08 Dec. 2013.

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/entertainment/2013/06/why-are-we-obsessed-with-superheroes/>.

This video podcast and news article discusses how both current events and the existence of superheroes for thousands of years. It also states his opinion that people want to feel inspired by superheroes and protected by them to feel safe from the world's problems. It conveys that with every historically significant event, the superheroes modify themselves.

This podcast was credible because it was from ABC News, which is famous for its broadcast of news. The only advertisements on the entire page were videos that were also supported by ABC News, which is less irritating than various promises to allow readers to lose weight. I also liked the perspective of the author and how he critically examined each generation's superheroes.

Like the previous citation, this also argues that current events spur the popularity of superheroes. However, this article further explains its reasoning for its stand on this. Therefore, I believe that it better connects with my non-fiction books because it implied that it thinks both current events and its long lasting existence in humanity is present in regards to superheroes today in our society. I also liked how it made a specific metaphor between our superheroes today and Greek demigods, which confirms my belief that it is very similar to my non-fiction book.

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FINAL GRADE

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GENERAL COMMENTS

Instructor

PAGE 1

PAGE 2

PAGE 3
