Formal Discussion: Archetypes

*Paradise Lost* by John Milton and “A Worn Path” by Eudora Welty

**Format**

The class will be presented with a question selected from the bank below. Raise your hand to be called upon to respond to that question. In your response you must:

1. Make a point
2. Use a quote from the text to support your point
3. Explain how your quote connects to your point
4. Draw a connection between your response and a response from a classmate (unless, of course, you’re the first to speak on a given question/topic).

**Grading**

You will be scored on each response, but only the BEST TWO scores will be taken into consideration for your ultimate grade. The trick to get as many points as possible is to make every effort to attempt analysis. Responses that lack substance (i.e. simple agreement/disagreement, no textual evidence, etc.) will not be scored. You will be docked points for disrupting the discussion or other members of the class during their turn to speak.

**Here is a list of topics you should review for your discussion.** In order to be fully prepared, I suggest that you read the story *at least* twice, review these questions, and respond to each before your exam date.

1. “Authors use setting to create meaning, just as painters use backgrounds and objects to render ideas.” The setting of a story is the environment in which the story is located. This environment can be physical, political, temporal (time of day, time of year, etc.). List the characteristics of the setting of *Paradise Lost* and “A Worn Path” What archetypal images appeared in the works’ settings? How do the settings reveal meaning in the works? Compare and contrast the setting of *Paradise Lost* with the setting of “A Worn Path.”
2. In “A Worn Path,” Phoenix Jackson takes a journey. In what way is Phoenix’s journey fit an archetypal hero's quest?
3. What kind of character does the author want us to see in Phoenix Jackson? List characteristics of Phoenix Jackson, as revealed in the short story, and identify the passages that illustrate those characteristics. How does Phoenix Jackson compare to the mythological archetype of the phoenix?
4. What other archetypes have you found as you’ve read *Paradise Lost* and “A Worn Path”? How did your knowledge of archetypes help you in analyzing the themes in these two works? What connections can you draw between the archetypes present in *Paradise Lost* and “A Worn Path”? *(Warning: don’t narrow your focus as far as gender or other specifics are concerned. Think outside the box – but not too far outside the box…)*
5. Compare and contrast the characters of Phoenix Jackson and Eve. How about Phoenix and the Serpent? Which archetypes do these characters exemplify? How else can you compare or contrast other characters that appear in the two works?
6. What do these two literary works say about knowledge?

**NOTE: There are a number of archetypes that were not covered in class. Feel free to look up the myriad other possibilities for archetypes to aid you in your analysis of the themes of these works!**