

Literary Comparison (MS 2022)

Final assignment (40%)

For the final assignment, prepare a table, on the following lines, delineating **two styles** of writing (novels, plays, short stories, blogs, non-fiction, journalism, songs or poetry), or music (non-textual), dance, film/TV/web, architecture, sartorial fashion, culinary or the visual arts. The table below is only a heuristic to help you think about styles and comparing them to each other. Obviously your choice of styles should come from an initial point of similarity. For example, Homer is compared with the Biblical style by Auerbach because both styles attempt to represent reality in a serious and sustained way. In the following table, the styles of Tolkien and Rowling are compared because both primarily derive from fantasy or magical worlds. Should Tolkien be compared to Dickens? Probably not.

Therefore, choose your two styles wisely (half the grade depends on this choice). A final word of advice: films and music require some technical vocabulary to describe their style. If you are unsure of the precise vocabulary for your chosen styles, stick to tried-and-tested literary styles (the major stylistic modes studied by Comp Lit are the narrative, dramatic, and the lyric) and their vocabulary. The answers given below to each question in every layer are meant to be indicative and you need not write so briefly nor copy the language. You may write in short paragraphs or point-form. But write in order to explain the style to its fullest. There is no word limit as long as you fit it all in the table. (Note: You may **not** use Tolkien and/or Rowling in your own assignments.)

Layers of explanation	<u>Style 1</u> Name: Tolkienian	<u>Style 2</u> Name: Rowlingian
1.	<i>How would an absolute beginner recognize this style? Or how can this style be universally recognized?</i> The use of made-up languages, or texts, genealogies and maps.	<i>How would an absolute beginner recognize this style? Or how can this style be universally recognized?</i> The use of a parallel universe of magic and its connections with the real world.

<p>2.</p>	<p><i>What are the secondary features of this style?</i></p> <p>The use of narratives resembling chronicles; use of ballads and songs; the picturing of different “races” etc.</p>	<p><i>What are the secondary features of this style?</i></p> <p>The use of fairy-tale elements, such as wizards and evil witches; the appeal to medieval legends (such as phoenixes, philosopher’s stone etc.)</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><i>Which stylistic elements contribute to a sense of reality for the reader?</i></p> <p>The depiction of war, the passing away of ages, the destruction of the natural world etc.</p>	<p><i>Which stylistic elements contribute to a sense of reality for the reader?</i></p> <p>The use of British locales such as London and its environs; the realities of the educational system, celebrity culture, etc.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><i>No style is born out of itself. What prior styles could this style be developing or synthesizing?</i></p> <p>Old English romances, Anglo-Saxon poetry, Germanic legends etc.</p>	<p><i>No style is born out of itself. What prior styles could this style be developing or synthesizing?</i></p> <p>Children’s literature, especially boarding-school stories, fairy tales, retelling of fairy tales, the Tolkien universe etc.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><i>The following is an <u>exemplary</u> instance of this style (this could highlight some or all the elements from #1 to #4 above):</i></p> <p>“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” (<i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i>, p. 51).</p>	<p><i>The following is an <u>exemplary</u> instance of this style (this could highlight some or all the elements from #1 to #4 above):</i></p> <p>“Of course it is happening inside your head, Harry, but why on earth should that mean that it is not real?” (<i>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</i>, p. 723).</p> <p><i>[Followed by item-by-item explanation of the style based on the</i></p>

	<i>[Followed by item-by-item explanation of the style based on the quotation.]</i>	<i>quotation.]</i>
6.	<p><i>What does this style tell us about the “world” (remember the Abhisarika assignment) from which it comes?</i></p> <p>There is a sense of the past being lost forever and the style seeks to preserve the past in tales and stories about the victory of good over evil. It creates an entire world – Middle Earth – to achieve this.</p>	<p><i>What does this style tell us about the “world” (remember the Abhisarika assignment) from which it comes?</i></p> <p>This style seeks to update older themes of children’s literature and magical worlds by bringing it closer to the everyday reality of the late twentieth century. It does this possibly to make a connection between social realities and the world of enchantment that those realities have destroyed.</p>