Act Two: Psychoanalysis – Literary Theory

1. Based upon the work of Sigmund Freud, the Father of Psychoanalysis. Studied neurology…. dream interpretation, Freudian slips, free associations…

2. Psychoanalytic School - human psychological function and behavior, patient verbalize inner thoughts (free association, fantasies, past trauma, dreams) from which the unconscious conflicts that cause a patient problems, are discovered (“neuroses”); the analyst explains/interprets them to help create insight for resolution of the patient’s problems.

3. Usually analysis takes time to confront the “subconscious blocks” – pathological defenses, to hide wishes & guilt; analysis tries to overcome/unlock these blocks (“repression” – defense mechanisms)

4. Bloom (Shakespearean Critic) - Freud’s view of human psychology derived, in part, from Shakespeare as Freud was very interested in Shakespeare and wrote a great deal about the plays, in particular

*Macbeth*: interested in asides and soliloquies (revealing (hidden) inner thoughts); references to sleep and dreams (access to character’s inner thoughts/fears, revelation of “neuroses”); hallucination (mind playing “tricks” on a character – reveal fears/inner feelings (guilt) and the occurrence of madness… because of “guilt” over trying to hide true feelings.)