Deconstructing Your Classmates

We’ve been studying Multiple Lenses… duh! So it’s time to employ your expertise and creativity to the theories. After choosing a name from my bag, think about the questions below and what you know of or can observe about the individual on your slip of paper.

If you had to write a one to two paragraph character sketch or analysis of this person – using one of the multiple lenses – which lens would it be? Describe the individual through the lens you believe best characterizes him/her. What have you observed about the way that person acts, the things he/she says, the people he/she hangs out with, where he/she works, activities he/she participates in, his/her priorities at school and in his/her life, etc. that tell you more about who that person really is and what is important to him/her, as well as what motivates him/her? This should be good-natured fun, not insulting, and creative.

Give your character sketch a title like: For Deconstruction= Melisa Falls Apart or For Marxism = Melisa the Power Monger… be fun not mean and hateful! Questions to consider:

**Marxism or Marxist Theory**
- What does power mean to this person? Is it exhibited in his/her life?
- What social forces are present in this person’s life? (Preppy, athlete, nerd)
- Does this person have power or is he/she ruled by power?

**Feminism or Feminist Theory (Gender Theory)**
- What is this person’s attitude toward his/her own sex or the opposite sex?
- What attitudes about his/her gender influence how he/she acts and what he/she says? (how he/she presents himself/herself or dresses) (how he/she communicates or walks)
- Does this person adhere to strict rules of gender? (girly or macho)
- Does this person allow the expectations of his/her gender to rule him/her?

**Psychological Theory**
- What goes on in this person’s mind?
- Is he/she in touch with his/her feelings?
- How does he/she act? (aggressive, sweet, gets run over, domineering)
- What type of personality does this person have?
- Is what you see what you get with this individual?

**Historical Theory**
- What in this person’s past has influenced who he/she is?
- What has made this person who he/she is today?
- How important is this person’s past to whom he/she is today?

**New Historical Theory**
- What kind of outside influences mold who this person is? (those he/she hangs out with, parents, teachers)
- What social values are reflected in the way this person acts?
- How does YOUR history influence what you think of him/her?

**Cultural Studies Theory**
- How does this person’s culture influence his/her behavior?
- How does the culture in which this person lives influence his/her actions?
- How do your own cultural assumptions influence your feelings about him/her?

**Deconstruction Theory**
- What contradictory traits/characteristics about this person make him/her difficult to understand?
- When you look at what makes this person tick, what can you determine about him or her?
- What specific values and ideals about this person define who he/she is?