

Socratic Seminar Prompt #6 – *Through the Looking Glass*:

Structuralism: *In literary theory, Structuralist criticism relates literary texts to a larger structure, which may be a particular genre, a range of intertextual connections, a model of a universal narrative structure, or a system of recurrent patterns or motifs. Structuralism argues that there must be a structure in every text, which explains why it is easier for experienced readers than for non-experienced readers to interpret a text or to make intertextual connections between texts. Hence, everything that is written seems to be governed by specific rules, or a "grammar of literature", that one learns in educational institutions and that are to be unmasked.*

- A)** If we are going with the theory that all texts have some type of frame - whether it is a literal framed narrative or if the frame is subtle or implied - where is the frame for the two Alice stories, what constitutes this frame, and how does the recognition of this frame affect the interpretation of theme of the overall two story arc and how does this frame affect the shift in narrative tone towards this theme over the course of the two stories?
- B)** You may also want to consider what a Structuralist analysis of *Looking Glass*, Chapter 10 reveals about the Alice's character arc in relation to the plot and in relation to the idea that emerges when considering the affect of the framing device of the two Alice stories.