

Week 3 Day 3: *Heart of
Darkness*

Modernism and Colonialism

ENGL201: Introduction to Modernism

Schedule

- Recap of last class and more material on the “White Man’s Burden” (24 mins)
- Conrad and the Gothic (25 mins)
- Big Questions for Next Class (1 min)

TAKE up the White Man's
burden -
Send forth the best ye breed -
Go bind your sons to exile
To serve your captives' need;
To wait in heavy harness
On fluttered folk and wild -
Your new-caught sullen
peoples,
Half devil and half child.

Take up the White Man's
burden -
In patience to abide
To veil the threat of terror
And check the show of pride;
By open speech and simple,
An hundred times made plain,
To seek another's profit,
And work another's gain.

Take up the White Man's burden -
The savage wars of peace -
Fill full the mouth of famine
And bid the sickness cease;

And when your goal is nearest
The end for others sought,
Watch Sloth and heathen Folly
Bring all your hopes to nought.

Take up the White Man's burden -
No tawdry rule of kings,
But toil of serf and sweeper -
The tale of common things.
The ports ye shall not enter,
The roads ye shall not tread,
Go make them with your living,
And mark them with your dead !

Take up the White Man's burden -
And reap his old reward,
The blame of those ye better,
The hate of those ye guard -
The cry of hosts ye humour
(Ah slowly !) towards the light:-
"Why brought ye us from
bondage,
"Our loved Egyptian night ?"

Take up the White Man's burden -
Ye dare not stoop to less -
Nor call too loud on Freedom
To cloak your weariness;
By all ye cry or whisper,
By all ye leave or do,
The silent sullen peoples
Shall weigh your Gods and you.

Take up the White Man's burden -
Have done with childish days -
The lightly proffered laurel,
The easy, ungrudged praise.
Comes now, to search your
manhood
Through all the thankless years,
Cold-edged with dear-bought
wisdom,
The judgement of your peers.

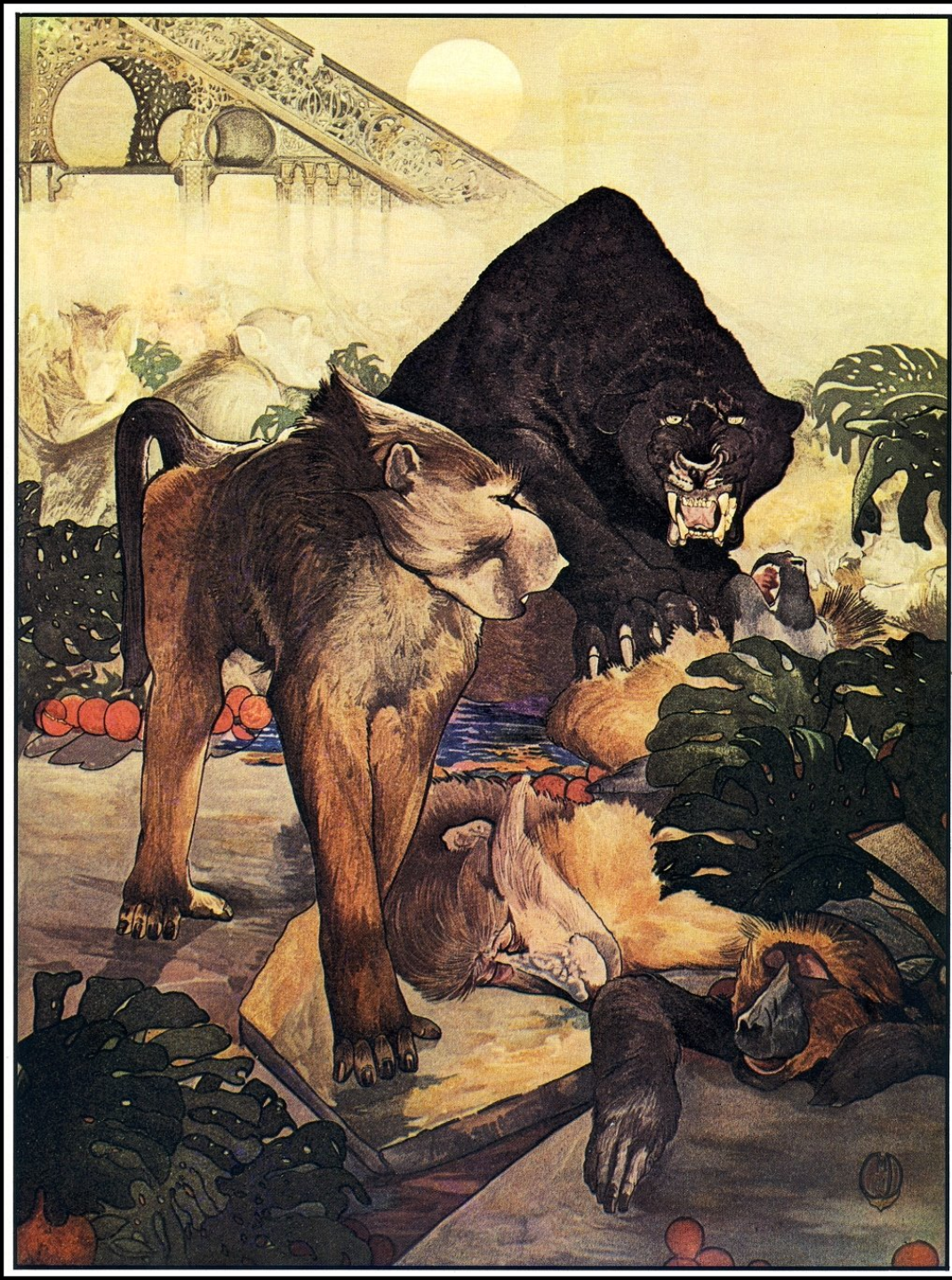
Rudyard Kipling 1899



Darkest Africa

- Conrad writing at a time of great colonial atrocity in Africa by European expansionist and capitalist interests
- Also writing at the same time that ideas of Africa as the “dark continent” and of the duty of white civilization to colonize hearts and minds to spread Western civilization

Illustrator: Maurice Detmold, 1903



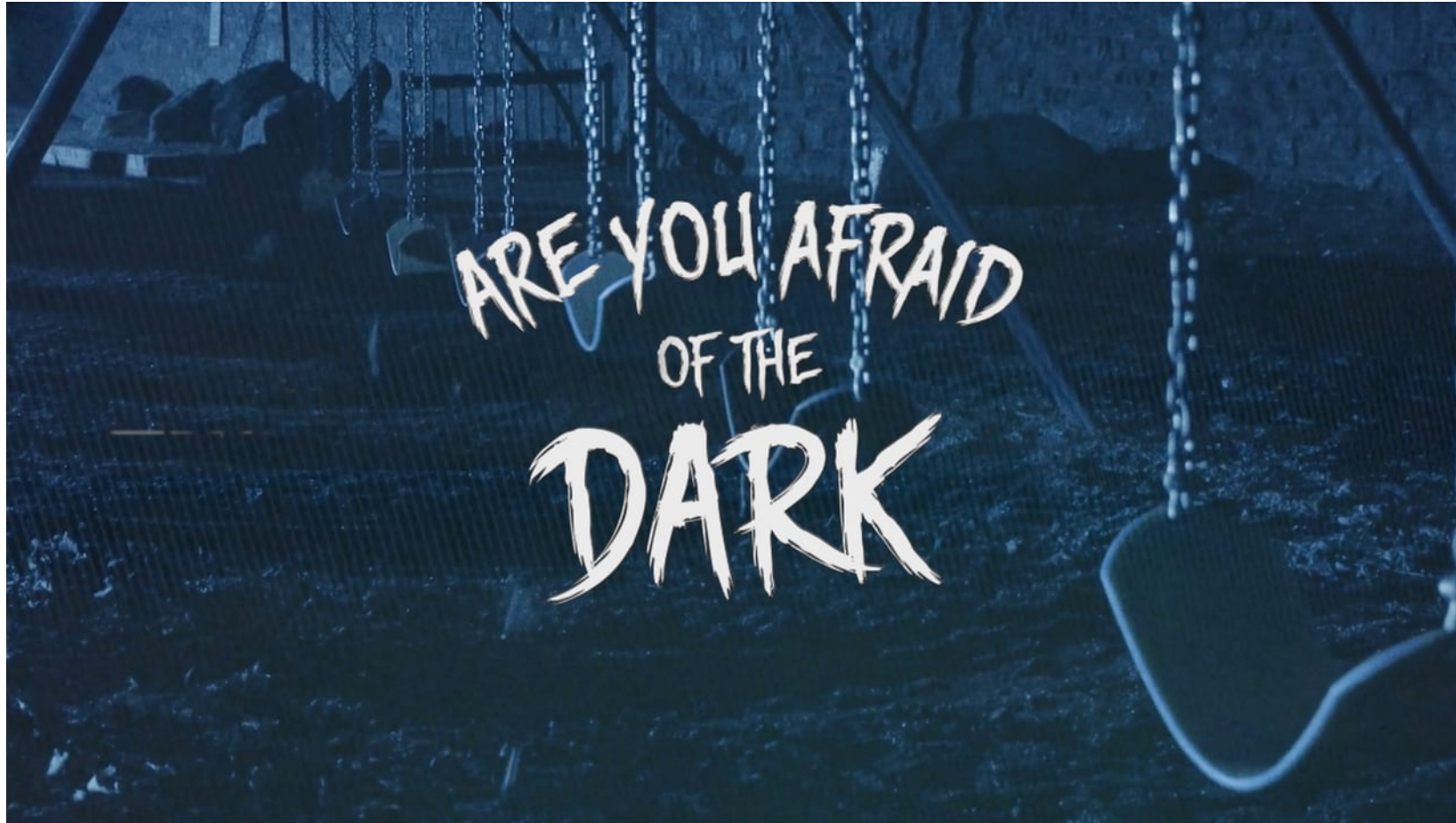


The Gothic and *Heart of Darkness*

What vain weathercocks we are! I, who had determined to hold myself independent of all social intercourse, and thanked my stars that, at length, I had lighted on a spot where it was next to impracticable—I, weak wretch, after maintaining till dusk a struggle with low spirits and solitude, was finally compelled to strike my colours; and under pretence of gaining information concerning the necessities of my establishment, I desired Mrs. Dean, when she brought in supper, to sit down while I ate it; hoping sincerely she would prove a regular gossip, and either rouse me to animation or lull me to sleep by her talk.....The worthy woman bustled off, and I crouched nearer the fire; my head felt hot, and the rest of me chill: moreover, I was excited, almost to a pitch of foolishness, through my nerves and brain. This caused me to feel, not uncomfortable, but rather fearful (as I am still) of serious effects from the incidents of today and yesterday. She returned presently, bringing a smoking basin and a basket of work; and, having placed the former on the hob, drew in her seat, evidently pleased to find me so companionable.

(Chapter 4, *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë)

What other works or forms can you think of that rely on this kind of narrative framing?





Psychology and Perception

- pp. 1960
- pp. 1967-68

“I remembered the old doctor—‘It would be interesting for science to watch the mental changes of individuals, on the spot.’ I felt I was becoming scientifically interesting.” (1967)



Setting and Confusion

- pp. 1971
- pp. 1972

Big Question:

What connection does the text make between:

- Sciences that look and observe
 - E.g. Psychology, Anthropology
- Literary forms that emphasise confusion, the otherworld, incomprehensibility
 - The Gothic, ghost stories, “exotic” stories