

English



Literary Lens

What questions do we ask?

Question → Interpretation



Lesson 1

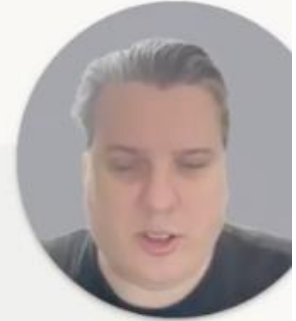
John & Grace

"I can't introduce him. It'll be easier for everybody if he doesn't see us. I'm not ashamed. But it will be easier. It'll be more sensible. It'll only embarrass him to see Grace." By this time he knew he was ashamed, but he felt that his shame was justified, for Grace's father had the smooth, confident manner of a man who had lived all his life among people who were rich and sure of themselves.

Create 10 questions about this text

Literary lens → helps us focus

Five Literary Lenses



- **Formalism** — How does the text create meaning?
- **Psychological Criticism** — What does this reveal about the mind?
- **Marxist Criticism** — How do power and class operate?
- **Feminist Criticism** — Whose experiences are centred, constrained, or overlooked?
- **Reader Response** — How do readers create meaning?

Lesson 2

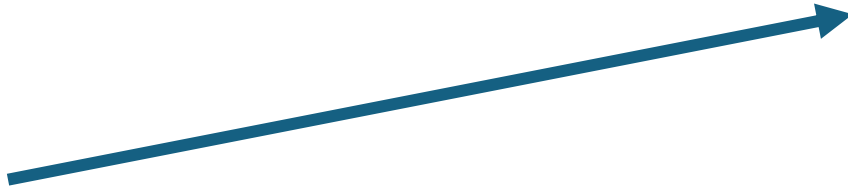
Formalism

Just the text . . . No context!

Can a text be understood without knowing anything about the author?

Start with the author or start with the text?

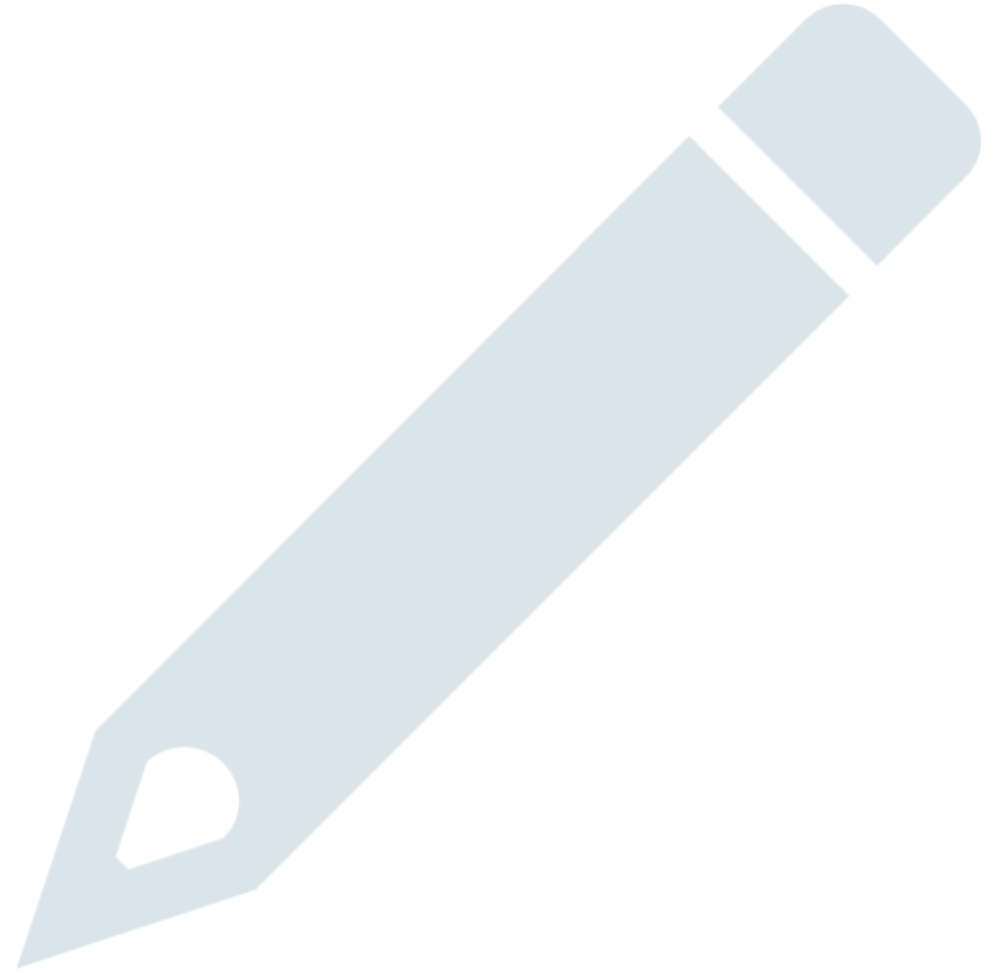
Formalism



Analyze the text → close reading



Lesson 3



Psychological Criticism

Getting into the mind
of the **characters**

Why do they think, feel
and **behave** in a
certain way?



A psychological critic asks:

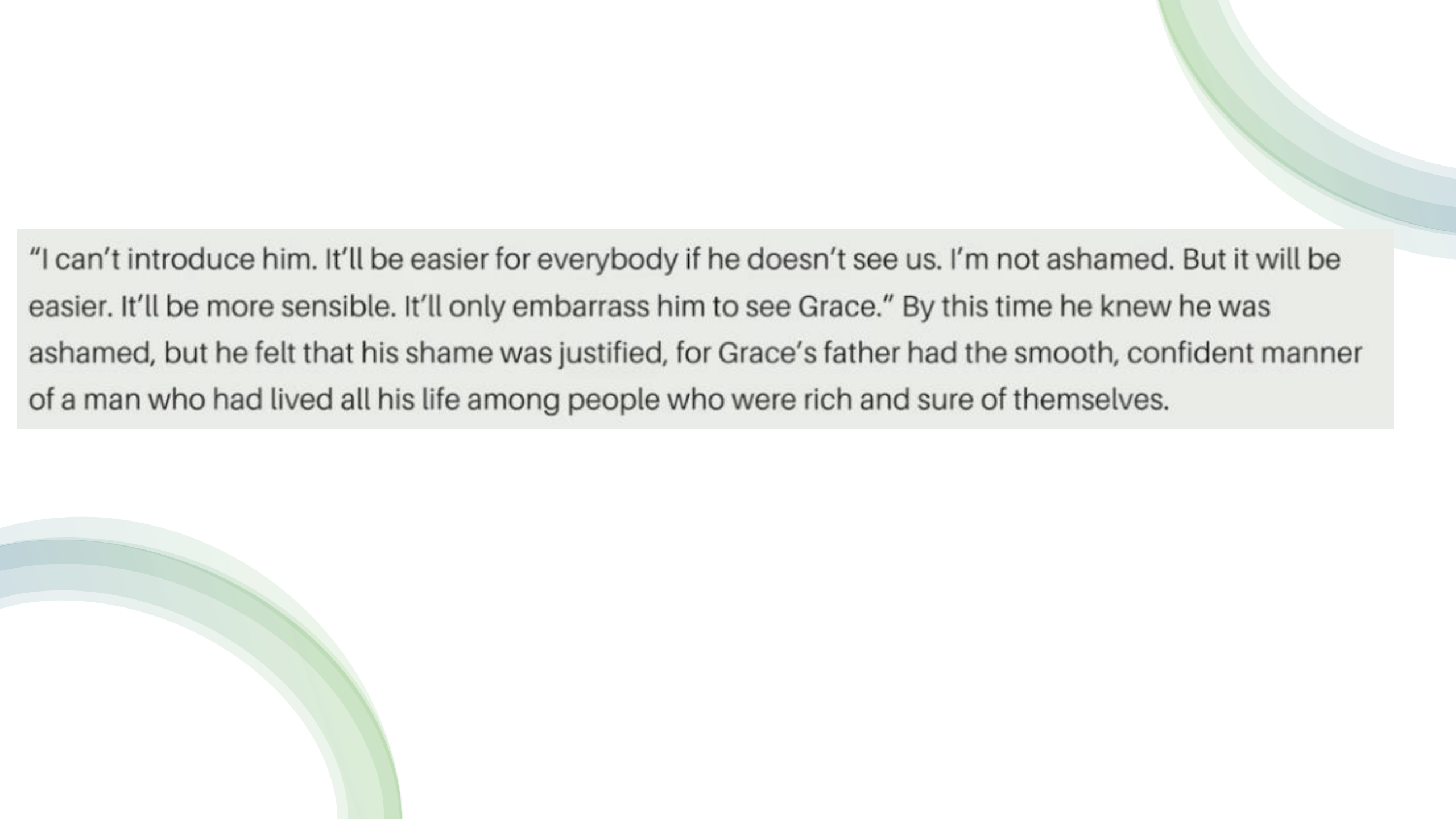
- **What motivates this character?**
- **What emotions drive these choices?**
- **What fears remain unspoken?**
- **What inner conflict is visible?**

What evidence supports your interpretation?



Lesson 4 - Marxist



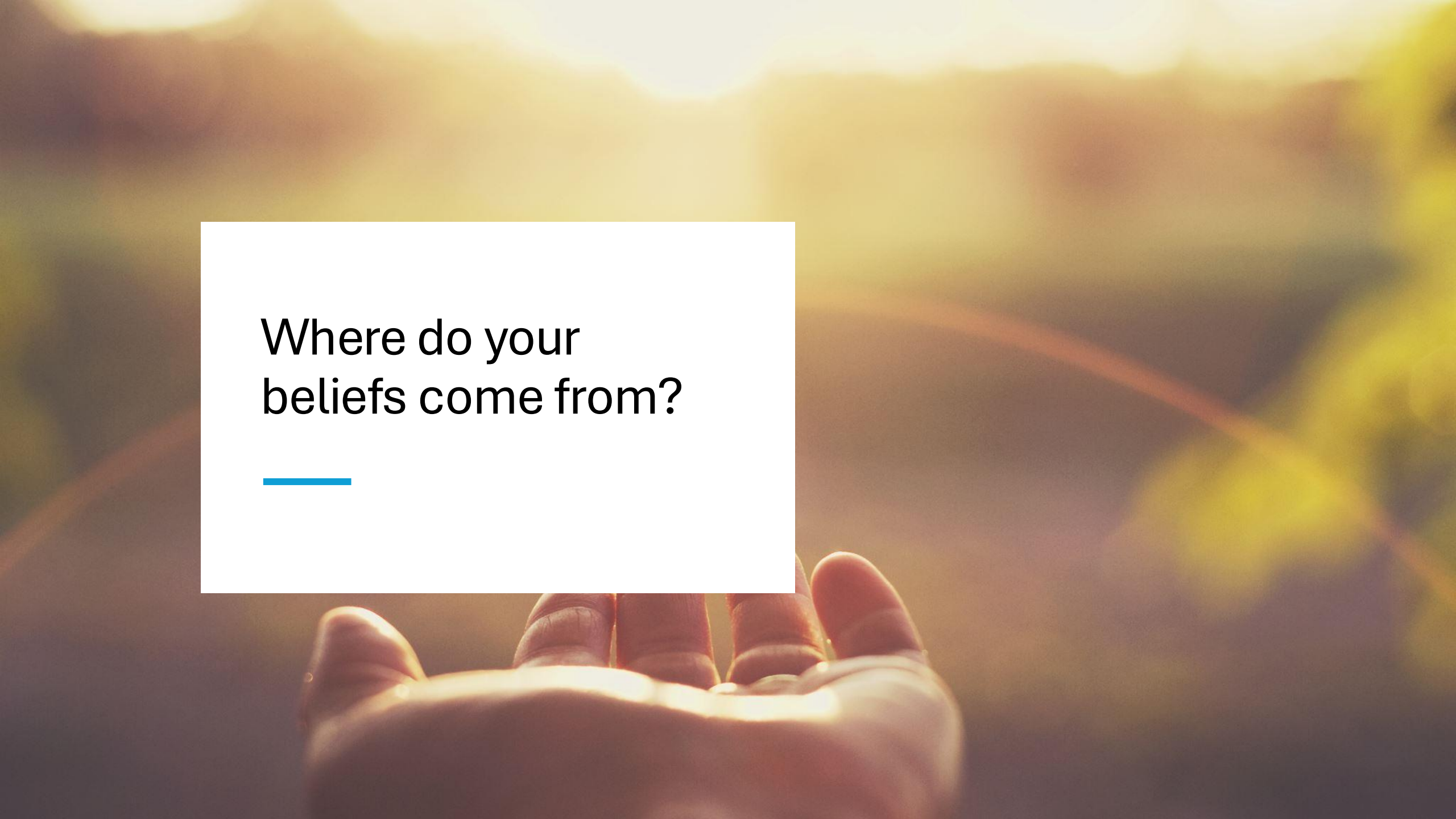


“I can’t introduce him. It’ll be easier for everybody if he doesn’t see us. I’m not ashamed. But it will be easier. It’ll be more sensible. It’ll only embarrass him to see Grace.” By this time he knew he was ashamed, but he felt that his shame was justified, for Grace’s father had the smooth, confident manner of a man who had lived all his life among people who were rich and sure of themselves.



The Marxist Lens – Encourages questions

Listen to lesson 4 and develop
5 questions

A hand is shown from the bottom, reaching upwards towards a bright, hazy sky. A faint rainbow is visible in the background. The overall tone is warm and hopeful.

Where do your
beliefs come from?

Societies form systems that shape people

What values does this society reward?

What ideas seem unquestioned?

Which institutions shape these beliefs?

How does the text reinforce or challenge those ideas?

Influence of society – the world

Consider...

- Why is John ashamed of his father?
- Who taught John to feel this way?
- Why does Grace's family represent success?
- Why do these ideas feel so natural to him?

Marxist criticism asks how societies shape the beliefs people come to accept as natural.

It explores

- power
- social class
- institutions
- opportunity
- values
- assumptions

Lesson 5 - Feminist







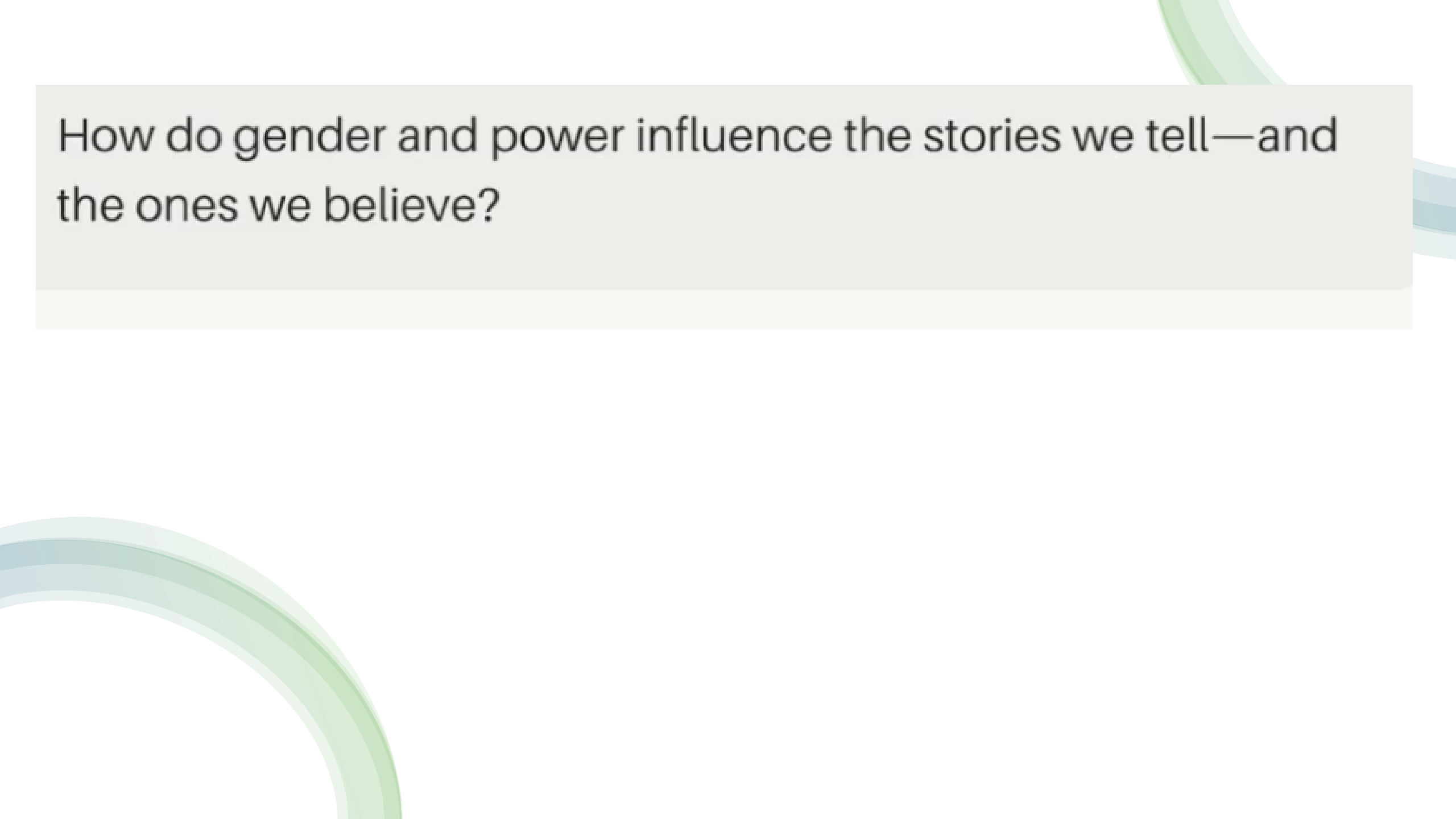
Agency

Agency asks:

Who has the power to make meaningful choices?

Consider:

- Who drives the action?
- Who reacts instead of acts?
- Whose decisions influence others?
- What limits each character's choices?



How do gender and power influence the stories we tell—and the ones we believe?

- representation
- identity
- agency
- social expectations
- voice
- power

Consider:

- Whose thoughts are explored?
- Whose motivations matter?
- Whose experiences receive attention?
- Which characters remain in the background?

