**Post-colonial Lens ----think race, religion, culture, ethnicity**

***Assumptions*** (Mindset; what you assume coming into a text/medium based on your prior knowledge)

1. Colonialism and racisms (conquering another’s land) are powerful, often destructive historical forces that shape not only the political futures of the countries involved but also the identities of the historically colonized (those who have been conquered) and colonizing (those who are doing the conquering) people.
2. Successful colonialism depends on the process of “Othering” the people colonized. That is, the colonized people are seen as dramatically different from and lesser than the colonizers. *This is often based on race, religion, culture and ethnicity.*
3. Because of this, media created in dominant cultures and perspectives often distorts the experiences and realities of colonized people and people of color. Literature written by colonized people often includes attempts to articulate more empowered identity and reclaim cultures in the face of colonization.

***Strategies: How to Read with a Post-Colonial Lens***

1. Search the text/medium for references to colonization or to currently and formerly colonized people. In these references:

a. Who is the one in power (the colonizer?) Who is the colonized/”Other”?

b. How are people of different cultures and races portrayed?

1. Consider what images of “Others” or processes of “Othering” are present in the text.
2. How are these “Others” portrayed? (You might want to define “Other” first).
3. Analyze how the medium deals with cultural conflicts between the culture in power and the culture who is not in power.

a. How does the colonizing culture affect the colonized?

1. Who is portrayed to have the power? How is the one in power dominating over the “Other?” What effects does this have on the “Other?”

**Post-Colonial Artifact**

