

جامعة بنها- كلية الآداب  
قسم اللغة الإنجليزية  
الفرقة الأولى

مدخل إلى النقد

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كلية الآداب-جامعة بنها

2019-2020

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## Introduction to Criticism

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Professor of English Literature  
Faculty of Arts- Banha University

2019-2020

Critical Reading of  
Once Upon a Time  
by  
Nadine Gordimer

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# Nadine Gordimer

Born 1923 in South Africa

Her writing reflects the everyday realities of a radically divided society


Continues to live in and write about South Africa

# Nadine Gordimer's Works

- She wrote mostly about South African, apartheid, a racially divided home country, and post-apartheid
- “...her writing... to give a number of different perspectives on a situation, and to represent the broader anatomy of a diseased politics. Gordimer's subject, as she emphasizes, is much more than apartheid; it is the human being in history.” (Abrams 2572)

“Once Upon  
a Time”  
by Nadine  
Gordimer

## Characters

- Protagonist(s): the husband and wife (who live happily in a safe community)
  - The trustworthy housemaid of the family
  - The gardener
  - The little boy (the son)
  - The cat and dog
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“Once Upon  
a Time”  
by Nadine  
Gordimer


## **Setting**

- “in a house, in a suburb, in a city”
- A country where there is racial discrimination.
- Time is not specified.



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# “Once Upon a Time” by Nadine Gordimer

- In Gordimer's personal story, she is a victim of a fear that "neither threatened nor spared", a fear that can be universally understood and felt by everyone. The object of her fear, however, is misplaced.
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“Once Upon  
a Time”  
by Nadine  
Gordimer

## Irony

- It sounds like a fairly tale, with the title, “Once Upon a Time,” and the family living “happily ever after.” But, in the end, the family loses their son in their quest for a safer environment.
- Irony adds to this final affect in that everything the parents do to protect their home becomes useless.