Natalie Groff

Literature for Young Adults

Dr. Sherry

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LENS: *King of Shadows*

For Susan Cooper’s *King of Shadows*, I chose to read it from an intertextual standpoint. Given the content of the novel, it seemed the most logical. This text might easily relate to other texts. For genre, it can fall under fantasy and historical fiction. It certainly relates to historical events and figures of Elizabethan England. And as far as literature, there is a heavy emphasis on the works of William Shakespeare. The most notable Shakespearian reference is to *A Midsummer Nights’ Dream*, as it is almost a character itself. Some other referenced works include *The Tempest, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Caesar, Othello,* and Sonnet 116.

Comparing *King of Shadows* to *A Midsummer Nights’ Dream* is an easy task as Cooper does all the work herself. Nat Field’s relationship with Shakespeare is paralleled with that of Puck and Oberon’s. In his Elizabethan performance, Nat was able to connect to his part so well because as Puck worshipped Oberon, Nat adored Shakespeare. He became the father figure that Nat so desperately needed. Without Shakespeare or *A Midsummer Nights’ Dream*, it might not be as apparent the intense grief that Nat still holds over his parents’ deaths and his need for a caring fatherly figure in his life.