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We chose to apply the theory of deconstruction to "The Storm" by Chopin. This story eludes to the underlying theme of deconstructing human identity. Deconstruction brings out the internal binaries that alter the meaning and comprehension of the text. This theory creates oppositions and challenges the fundamental distinctions of the text. "The Storm" has the binaries that can be brought out and tampered with to create a deeper understanding of the text itself.

There are many different binaries that are at play in this text. This is one of my favorite stories to read and it seems to get more complex every time I read it. The themes of conformity vs nonconformity, identity, faithfulness vs, infidelity, and sinfulness vs. divine intervention. Those are just a few of the ones that we talked about during class.

Calixta has more than one form of identity and shows us that people are fragmented and that we always have conflicting beliefs, fears, concerns, and perceptions. During the storm she feels bad about her son and husband being caught up in the storm but on the other hand she is glad they are gone. She says she, "Felt no uneasiness for their safety." She was so caught up with Alcee that she couldn't see that she was giving us the most dramatic and questionable scene in the text. There is also an undercurrent of feminism that if read closely can provide clear details of Calixta's feelings and it is more of a story about male domination over sexually oppressed woman.

Another idea that we talked about in class is the social contract that is signed when you are married. As well as the standards and expectations that are achieved by husband and wife. This is a great example of how some marriages are and how they sort of just collapse on each other and give in to others. This is interesting to me because she can have an affair but not feel any remorse or sorrow toward her husband. Chopin is critiquing the modern day marriage rules that all these social binaries warn us about using the theory of deconstruction.

There are many times that Chopin introduces these cultural binaries that contradict modern day perceptions and ideologies that surround human persona. Here are some notes that we jotted down: Showing duty/Obligation to be mother/wife / Allows a moment of acting on desire, the storm giving the life/death situation to act on desire (divine intervention) and

Freedom and happiness outside of sense of morality. Chopin uses the storm to build upon the sexual tension between Calixta and Alcee. As the storm brews closer the tension grows deeper and it is suddenly over once the storm has passed. But would this

be considered moral? She says, "When he touched her breasts they gave themselves up in quivering ecstasy, inviting his lips. Her mouth was a fountain of delight. And when he possessed her, they seemed to swoon together at the very borderland of life's mystery." This quote is one of the most explicit quotes in the story because it shows exactly what they are doing and it solidifies the choice that they are making.

Language is much more ambiguous than people think and in "The Storm" the binaries all come together as one to create this astounding message of hope, passion, and time. The theory of deconstruction constitutes a reaction against structuralism and its orderly vision of language and human existence.