



# Building Fantasy

Creative Writing II



# Building Your World: Your first step to a fantasy story

- Build your world and locations on three scales:
  - Large-scale (universe, world, or continent)
  - Mid-scale (a country, town, or region)
  - Small-scale (individual story locations—tavern, castle, cave, etc.)
- Draw a map, even if you are not a good artist. By doing so, it helps you discover what makes your world unique and intriguing



# Use Real World Themes

- Standard, real-world, themes can be explored in inventive, diverse ways through a fantasy lens.
- What are current concerns about politics, culture, environment, technology, racism, etc.
- Is anything frustrating you at this moment? You can explore it through your story.
- Think of it as a form of therapy—just cheaper (relationships, aging, responsibilities, etc.)



# Why people read fantasy...

- The thrill of adventure
- Escapism—visiting imagined worlds
- High stakes revenge/vengeance
- The wonder of magic
- The hope of heroism
- Wish, wonder and surprise
- Timeless, dramatic themes