**ROLAND BARTHES - Five Codes of analysis**

Roland Barthes was a French philosopher who believed that all narratives have five codes that can explain the way a story is told. He suggested that a media text can be:

* **'Open'** - when lots of or all of the narrative codes are used making the story ***complex***. For example the film *'Inception'*is an ***open*** media text, as it has embedded complex storylines.
* **'Closed'** - is when a ***single*** narrative code is used, therefore the ***story is simple.*** For example fairy tales are often a closed texts as the stories they tell are simple.

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| Code | Description | Your Notes | Kiss of The Vampire Analysis |
| Enigma Code | Refers to the mystery within a text, where clues are dropped but there are no clear answers given to the audience. Enigmas within the narrative make the audiences want to know more, but unanswered enigmas tend to frustrate audiences as most audiences prefer closed endings  |  |  |
| Action Code | Contains sequential elements of action in the text to add suspense and tension. The enigma and action codes work as a pair to develop the story's tensions and keep the reader interested. |  |  |
| Semantic Code | Refers to the connotations found within the text that gives additional meaning over the basic denotative meaning. These additional meanings are usually dependent on how the audience read the image. Semantic codes can be tightly connected to genre and the audience’s association with generic signifiers. You have already identified many semantic codes in the previous two tasks; how vampire iconography takes on meaning within the genre. |  |  |
| Symbolic Code | Refers to symbolism within the text which emphasises *opposites* to show *contrast* and create greater meaning creating tension, drama and character development. So it could be the symbolism of two opposing character types. |  |  |
| Referential Code | Refers to anything in the text which may refer to an external body of knowledge such as scientific, historical, cultural knowledge. The referential code makes the audience understand or expect stories from what we already know…because we are smart, informed spectators! |  |  |