**J. HILLIS MILLER**

**“Narrative”**

* Psychological explanation for universal need for stories:
  + rhythmical pleasure of recitation
  + learning tools via mimesis
  + reinforces and questions one’s culture
  + motivation and restraint
  + ordering the world and affecting one’s view of it (makes things happen)
* Stories appear as constant, in various forms yet the same plot, repeated endlessly
* Never completely satisfying because of language polysemy
* “The Grizzly Bear” and “A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal”: order of words/concepts visualizes plot concretely, yet upsets final knowledge

*What are those two poems really about, from a Freudian perspective?*