8. February 25. HOUR EXAM. What is a literary character? When we turn to literature, what are we looking for? What do we expect?

Holland, "Why Do We Care?" Online. 29 pp.
Basic pitch is: emotions come from what we perceive willy-nilly (feeling plus visceral plus musculoskeletal). Convention that we do not act inhibits the musculoskeletal, but the other two remain.

Hard going. But very important. Self-stimulation and SEEKING -- these are key to literature. 145a5. SEEKING system leads organisms to pursue goods in environment, including knowledge. This has to do with the "making sense" process in literature. He uses the phrase: 145 b3.
Literature as self-stimulation system: self-stimulation activates SEEKING and SEEKING seems to be an end in itself. "A goad without a goal." 149ab. 149b7 "Energized psychic state accompanies arousal of SEEKING system." 153b1. SEEKING is nonspecific. Anything that stimulates the lateral hypothalamic system will evoke SEEKING behavior. Also SEEKING is tonically active. We are always trying to "make sense."

Holland, "Are Literary Characters People?" Online. 23 pp.
This is pretty straightforward. 2 pathways. Dorsal - ventral, where and what.


227.3 "Psychological processes are not indivisible `functions' or `faculties,' but complex functional systems based on the concerted working of a group of cerebral zones, each of which makes its own contribution to the construction of the complex psychological process." nice phrasing

3 functional units x 3 zones. Hierarchy (Hughlings Jackson): Luria uses term "vertical functioning" -- 57.8. 227.3 "Psychological processes are not indivisible `functions' or `faculties,' but complex functional systems based on the concerted working of a group of cerebral zones, each of which makes its own contribution to the construction of the complex psychological process." nice phrasing

3 functional units X 3 zones: primary - secondary - tertiary (p. 43.3).
Functional units--
1. Waking - attention. (sensing inner world?) What is hierarchy of zones here? See p. 60. This is Solms' sensing of the inner world! 58.6: Cerebral cortex also performs non-specific activating functions. Every specific afferent or efferent fibre is accompanied by a fibre of the non-specific activating system. Stimulation of individual areas of cortex can evoke both activating and inhibitory influences on lower brain structures. nnh: this has to do with suspension of disbelief and form.
2. Sensing outer world. Note how hierarchy of zones applies not only to sensing but also to language.

3. Programming & regulating mental activity. What is hierarchy of zones here?

Luria's laws:
- Law of strength.
- Law of diminishing specificity (the zones).
- Law of progressive lateralization.

Riestra: in the frontal lobe, 5 systems. 1) motor system; 2) oculomotor system; 3) orbitofrontal, roughly personality (cp. Schore; processes social cues); 4) anterior cingulate, grossly motivational; 5) lateral frontal, =cognitive, executive. 3 here corresp to 3b below; 4 here corresp 3c below; 5 here corresp 3a below.

Frontal lobe contains, moving forward from central sulcus: precentral gyrus (movement of opposite side of body); premotor cortex (organizes more complex motor movements); prefrontal fibers (inhibitory control). Stuss, Alexander, Benson: Some include anterior cingulate. 5 circuits: 1) motor system including Supplementary Motor Area (SMA); oculomotor circuit, including Frontal Eye Fields (FEF); 3) 3 circuits originating in a) dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, b) lateral orbital cortex, c) medial frontal/anterior cingulate cortex. Each of these circuits involves a frontal lobe area, projections to striatal regions, continue to globus pallida, return to thalamus, and back to frontal region of origin. Lesions in 3a --> lose in verbal & nonverbal fluency, problem-solving, set shifting, learning, retrieval. Lesions in 3b --> disinhibition and irritability. Lesions in 3c --> apathy and decreased initiative. Makes some sense to speak of frontal system in the large and "executive function" in the large.

Discussion:

The memory systems
The SEEKING system

What are the kinds of memory? What do they lead us to expect? From Pally on memory:
What memory systems are involved in doing literature?
What is literary form?
What is attention?
How does form work in the brain?

Reading:

Holland, "What Do We Expect?" Online. 12 pp.