Angel Mythology Summary

**Yaweh (YHWH/Jehovah):**

* He is the universal God after the change from polytheism to monotheism
* According to the Bible, He is worshipped, respected and almighty (Isaiah 45.7)

(This representation is an obvious difference from the representation in *Not Wanted)*

**Lucifer**

* The stereotypical image of Satan originates from “The Horned God” of Neo-Paganism, who represents sexuality and nature
* Lucifer in the Bible is described as being beautiful (Ezekiel 28. 12-14), and his dragon form is also mentioned (Revelations 20.3)
* The effeminate form of Lucy reflects angels of the Renaissance and Romantic period
* Popular Christian belief is that Lucifer was a good angel, but was expelled from Heaven upon his rebellion against God
* According to the Qur’an, Iblis’ (Shaitan) expulsion was a result of his refusal to obey God’s orders to honour Adam with the other angels. This is Christian equivalent of Satan.
* It is commonly agreed that Lucifer’s pride is the root of his disobedience, and literature usually portrays him in a negative light. However, evidence to support this varies; that is, scholars of various disciplines have different view points.
* Isaiah 14.12-14 speaks of a morning star that wished to rise above God. Though this passage is commonly interpreted as being a reference to Lucifer, some scholars, however, suggests it may be speaking of the King of Babylon.
* Ezekiel speaks of the corruption on his account of being too proud of being beautiful, which also seems to refer to Lucifer, but some scholars suggest it may be describing the King of Tyre.

**Michael**

* His name means “Who is like God” in Hebrew. It is often interpreted as a rhetorical question to show humility before God.
* Michael is one of the few archangels in the Bible. His roles include protecting Israel, leading God’s army, carrying the souls of the deceased to Heaven, and weighing the souls.
* In art, Michael is often portrayed as a saint carrying an orb or staff to represent his roles in governance.
* In *Not Wanted,* he is Lucifer’s opposite; he is a traditionalist whereas Lucy is a modernist.
* Michael is called the archangel (Jude 9)
* Archangels are generally taken to mean “chief or leading angel” (Jude 9:1, Thess. 4:16)

**Contrasts b/t Lucy and Michael in *Not Wanted on the Voyage*** (write down your thoughts, discuss with your mates)

*Thank you to Tian-Lin H., Esther J. and Hilary W. for compiling the information. They cite Wikipedia as their source.*

Gender Studies: A Short Breakdown and Terminology

“The misapprehension about gender performativity is this: that gender is a choice, or that gender is a role, or that gender is a construction that one puts on, as one puts on clothes in the morning, that there is a 'one' who is prior to this gender, a one who goes to the wardrobe of gender and decides with deliberation which gender it will be today. This is a voluntarist account of gender which presumes a subject, intact, prior to its gendering.”

**―** [Judith Butler](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5231.Judith_Butler)**,** [*Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2249813)

Judith Butler is a current American philosopher (born. 1956) who focuses on gender, sexuality, equality, and feminist issues under the umbrella theories involving structures of power and identity. She argues that **gender is a social construct** – *that there are aspects of identity that are part of a performative process that is presented to us from before birth*.

Now, some definitions:

**SEX:** Refers to the biological and anatomical aspects of a person. This is how a baby is determined “male” or “female” at birth- according to their reproductive organs and genitalia. A person’s sex does not always match their gender, though.

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**GENDER:**  "The notion of gender can be understood to be referring to the cultural assumptions and practices that govern the social construction of men, women, and their social relations. The concept gains much of its force through a contrast with a conception of sex as the biological formation of the body. Thus, feminity and masculinity as forms of gender are the outcome of the cultural regulation of behaviors that are regarded as socially appropriate to a given sex. Given that gender is held to be a matter of culture rather than 'nature', so it is always a matter of how men and women are represented." Barker, Chris. (2004). The SAGE Dictionary of Cultural Studies. London: SAGE Publications Ltd.

When a person’s biological sex matches their **gender identity**, this person is said to be **cisgender.** A person whose biological or anatomical sex does not match their gender identity is most commonly known as a **transgender** person.

**A Trans-man** is a person who psychologically, emotionally and spiritually identifies as a male, although they may not have reproductive organs of an anatomical male. Regardless of the stage of transition of a trans individual, if they prefer to be called male, it is most respectful to address them as “he/him”.

**A Trans-female** or trans-woman is a person who psychologically, emotionally and spiritually identifies as a female, although they may not have reproductive organs of an anatomical female. Regardless of the stage of transition of a trans individual, if they prefer to be addressed as a female, it is most respectful to address them as “she/her”.

**How does this connect to our novel study, though?! Flip over the page…**

This is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of vocabulary and exploration on the subject. The most important things to remember when researching and discussing topics of gender and sexuality are:

1. Be respectful! In our modern, Canadian society, many people identify themselves in different ways. In is not our job to label individuals, but to allow people to label themselves as they so choose. Some people may also reject labels altogether- this is okay too.
2. Try to be open-minded. Cultural/religious/societal or moral influences may make it difficult to understand certain identities. The more open minded a person is, the more they can at least be aware of difference and, therefore, ***strive towards peaceful acceptance***.

Looking at Lucy specifically, what purpose do they serve? First approach Lucy in terms of the angel mythology section, and then proceed to analyze their significance in terms of the gender studies section. (These notes are important, trust!)