Mental spaces and discourse meaning

1 Space building
Provide an answer to each of the following:

a. In your own words, provide a definition of the following: mental space, mental space lattice.
b. How are mental spaces set up?
c. How are they internally structured?
d. How are they related to each other?
e. Now give an example of your own to illustrate c. and d.

2 A mental space lattice
Diagram a mental space lattice for the following excerpt:

The witch is riding a unicorn. It has a blue mane. The witch thinks she’s riding a horse, and that it has a yellow mane.

3 A more complex example
Consider the following discourse chunk.

Daenerys Targaryen is the unburnt mother of dragons. She hopes to be Queen of Westeros. But she is Khaleesi in Esteros. In her dreams she frees all the slaves in Esteros.

Diagram an annotated mental spaces lattice for this discourse chunk. (Note: a model answer is provided as a separate file for this question.)
4 Referential ambiguity

a. Provide a mental spaces lattice for the following sentence:

(1) I dreamed that I was Marilyn Monroe and that I kissed me.

b. Based on the various connectors prompted for, explain how the referential ambiguity is accounted for.

5 Viewpoint, focus and event

a. Provide definitions of the terms: viewpoint, focus and event, and illustrate with examples of your own.

b. Now provide a mental space lattice for the following text. In particular, provide an account of how tense signals a shift in the viewpoint, focus or event. (Note: in this example, *would* signals future perspective in the past.)

   In 1995 John was living in London for the first time. In 1997 he would move to France. By this time he would have lived in London for two years.

6 Foundation and expansion spaces

a. How are the following kinds of mental space – base, foundation and expansion – different? Provide examples of your own to illustrate your answer.

b. Now add to the mental space lattice, which you developed in 2., the structure prompted for by the sentence below.

   But she's flying through the air. If she were riding a horse, then she would not be flying through the air.

c. Does the mental space configuration constructed for in 6b. involve a hypothetical or a counterfactual? What is the difference?

d. How is this difference prompted for by language?

7 Foundation spaces again

a. Diagram a mental spaces lattice for the text given below.

   John has a pet cat. It’s called Fred. Next year John will buy a dog. Maybe the cat will like the dog. If the cat doesn’t like the dog, then John will have to keep them in separate parts of the house.

b. Explain how each sentence prompts for the addition of structure to the mental space lattice.

c. Relative to which space is the foundation built? Explain your reasoning.