

Vlad Molnar

Professor Starr

ENG 181

15 December 2015

Final Portfolio

Cover Letter:

Dear Portfolio Assessment Committee,

Throughout the year I have not only grown significantly as a writer but also gained skills that will help in all aspects in life. Each assignment challenged us in different ways to strengthen our writing. We learned to critically analyze writings and images and how to form arguments based on them. By looking back at my writings throughout a tremendous amount of progress is seen. Through the different learning outcomes we have become writers. They challenged us to constantly improve our work.

Outcome 1: Rhetorical Composition and Composing Texts in Multiple Genres

A good writer always is aware of his audience and writes in different genres in order to better influence the reader. Throughout the year we were challenged to write in different genres and to different audiences. In order to fulfill the task we had to adapt our writing styles and present our arguments strategically. My Literary Response Letter shows the creative side to my writing and it demonstrates how I can closely analyze a character and adopt their persona. The letter is based on the plot of the novel *Super Sad True Love Story* by Gary Shteyngart, but also incorporates

my own writing elements. The goal of the letter was to rewrite a same paragraph with a different tone switching how the character relays his message. The in the original passage the character has trouble relating his feelings and is often dull, so in my letter I tried to relate his feelings. I wrote, "Today I've had a great idea: We're never going to die. Others will die around us. They will be reduced, and nothing of their lives will remain, but we will never be forgotten. Never be nullified." I rewrote the passage in a more romantic form to display the character's internal emotions. From this letter we had to critically analyze a character and adopt his style in a relatively informal fashion.

On the other hand, for our research paper was formal and challenged us in other aspects. We had to follow certain guidelines and did not get to be as creative with our writing. The goal of this assignment was to convey and prove an argument. This completely changed our writing style because we needed to be focused on persuading a reader instead of entertaining, as in the letter. My favorite assignment of this year was the Pecha Kucha presentation. This assignment gave us immense freedom over our topic and allowed us to analyze something we were genuinely interested in. Just like the research paper, we still had to present an argument, but we did so informally. By writing in diverse genres we gained a wide skill set and learned how to adapt to the audience.

Outcome 2: Critical Thinking and Reading Resulting in Writing

Critical thinking was a key aspect in everything we did in class. Even in class discussions we had to analyze the reading and use critical thinking to form an

argument and then present it to the class in an eloquent format. A big theme for this semester was forming and presenting arguments. In our first blog post we had to present arguments in support and against of surveillance technology. We were forced to make two conflicting arguments and argue the pros and cons of both. The first argument I made was, "The risks that this technology brings up are not worth the potential benefits." which is countered in my next argument, "Having this technology would bring all criminals to justice with only a few risks making it a potentially life saving tool." With this activity I learned the benefits of strengthening an argument by highlighting the flaws of its counterargument. In blog post 7 we had to pick an article and find its argument. This taught us how to critically read a piece and then discover its argument. I presented the argument as, "The main argument the author is making is that Frankenstein intended to create a creature like himself but the creature does not turn out how he had envisioned. Instead Frankenstein's monster reflects the author, Mary Shelly, and the society in which she lived." I was able to isolate the argument and then argue with it. We used critical thinking in order to make and analyze arguments.

Outcome 3: *Writing as Process*

The assignments this semester have taught me that writing is truly a process. In order to write well one can not just write something and just turn it in because the revision process is key. A good author constantly reanalyzes what he has written and strives to make it better. This is displayed in the progress of my final research paper. It first started as just a proposal for my research. I presented my topic as, "how the monster's identity is a reflection of Shelly and her time period." After doing

more research became more interested in a new topic and completely changed the course of my paper. This shows a good writer is always attempting to make his work better. In my final paper my thesis became, "Victor and his creature share similar characteristics in their identities in their, obsession of the unknown, exclusion from society, and their hate for their creations, which shape their development as characters." The change and improvement of just my thesis shows how writing is always changing. The development of my rough draft into my final took a lot of time and many revisions. I had to make many changes until I was satisfied in my paper. Through this large project I learned that writing is a process and a good writer is always improving.

Through my writings this semester I have grown and truly become a superior writer. My writings display how I have learned from the outcomes and how they have shaped my writing. This class not only taught me to be a better writer but it also gave me some good life skills. I learned that I greatly needed to improve my time-management skills and how to manage my work effectively. At first I did not look ahead to see what assignments were coming up and was completely overwhelmed and ultimately did things rushed and was forced to turn in lower quality work. This class taught me to manage my schedule and use my time effectively and I am grateful for it.

Blog Post 1

The “Eye in the Sky” technology allows one to spy on an entire population and stop crimes before they happen with advanced information. While some argue that basic privacy is being invaded others would say that this technology would keep more citizens safe. While it is true that having surveillance of everything would make it easier to catch criminals and stop crimes in action, the price of our privacy is not worth it. This technology would not stop crimes but just make it more easy and efficient to catch the assailant making it not as useful as imagined. But if the people who are using this technology have bad intentions or the camera information gets hacked, then all information about a person’s life can be made public destroying their privacy. Recently there have been data hacks all over the world and valuable information has been stolen from many nations. Having crucial information like this out in the open seems like a risky and possibly fatal idea. The risks that this technology brings up are not worth the potential benefits.

The “Eye in the Sky” technology allows one to spy on an entire population and stop crimes before they happen with advanced information. While some argue that basic privacy is being invaded others would say that this technology would keep more citizens safe. While it is true that having surveillance of everything takes away privacy from peoples life, this surveillance can be used to catch almost all perpetrators of crime. Furthermore if you are not committing crimes, like any good citizen should, then you have nothing to fear from this new technology. Also the government is voted by the people, so the information is in safe hands protected by some of the best security in the world, making the chances of a hack very slim. Having this technology would bring all criminals to justice with only a few risks making it a potentially life saving tool.

Blog Post 2

A major theme of most science fiction and dystopia novels is the rapid development of technology and its dominance over the human race. In Super Sad True Love Story the people have become reliant on certain technologies clearly diminishing human interactions and connections. Although our society has not gotten as bad as this one, we are getting close. People are wasting a lot of their time making fake interactions on social instead of making bonds with real people in person. The amount of time our generation spends making random posts and updates on their lives instead of just experience real life is surprising and scary. What was really shocking to me is when we discussed how weird it was that you could find any information you wanted from someone through your applet, but Facebook does a similar thing now. By creeping on someone's wall you can find out a lot about their life and even some things that are meant to be private. Another parallel between the book and our own lives is how the characters in the book communicate. Eunice and her friends and family tend to only communicate through online chats and emails, also Lenny posts in an online diary like a blog. Although we do not like to admit it we all do this, rarely do we talk to people on the phone or sit down and have a genuine conversation. We use texts, instant messages, snapchats, and status updates to tell ourselves were social and that we have lots of friends. I think that without more human connections we will become more distant and end up more like the dystopian society in the book.

Blog Post 3

The artifact I want to study for my Pecha Kucha presentation is a comic strip from the graphic novel Watchmen written by Alan Moore and illustrated by Dave Gibbons. I chose to study this because it speaks to many of our class themes in an interesting and exciting way. It uses the action and awesomeness of comic heroes to reflect on privacy, freedom and government control. I want to study it in more detail because it was one of my favorite books when I first read it and it would be interesting to go back and analyze all the hidden messages I missed. The author's main purpose is to entertain but I believe the author wants to educate and persuade the reader on certain issues. The intended audience is mostly an average American since it focuses on a dystopian America and has some mature themes. The assumptions are made that they can look beyond the text and pull out a deeper meaning. It was published in 1987 and it focuses on the cold war period and the huge tension between the USA and the USSR. The tone is harsh and violent. The genre is a graphic novel. The text and illustrations can both be analyzed so there is a lot to take away from each page. The book does a good job of appealing to all rhetorical arguments but it uses pathos the most effectively. I am excited to reevaluate one of my favorite books.

Blog Post 7

http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.emory.edu/stable/30225415?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=frankenstein&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3Dfrankenstein%26amp%3Bprq%3Dfrankenstien%26amp%3Bgrou p%3Dnone%26amp%3Bacc%3Don%26amp%3Bfc%3Doff%26amp%3Bso%3Drel %26amp%3Bhp%3D25%26amp%3Bwc%3Don&seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

"Frankenstein" and Dis(re)membered Identity

Eleanor Salotto

The Journal of Narrative Technique

Vol. 24, No. 3 (Fall, 1994) , pp. 190-211

Published by: Department of English Language and Literature, Eastern Michigan University

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30225415>

The main argument the author is making is that Frankenstein intended to create a creature like himself but the creature does not turn out how he had envisioned. Instead Frankenstein's monster reflects the author, Mary Shelly, and the society in which she lived. One of the big themes she analyzes is how femininity is displayed in the novel and how it impacts the monster. She then goes on to show more examples on how the creature reflects Shelly's character and personality.

I am not quite sure that I want to focus on this topic for my paper but I think the subject is interesting. I would prefer to do my paper on the movie *Her* but I had difficulty finding sources to go with it. I think the film displays our class themes effectively and explores a very interesting topic. I would like to further analyze if it is possible to fall in love with a computer and what makes something living. But if I can not find the sources to support my topic I would like to explore this topic in Frankenstein. I think it is interesting how Shelly is represented in her creature and am excited to continue exploring it.

Blog Post 10

In my introduction I usually start with a broad topic and slowly focus in onto my research question. My introduction serves as a source of background information and also on why my research question is important. Once I have focused in, I present my thesis and how I am going to argue it and then close the intro. In my conclusion I start by repeating my main argument and the main supporting details. I conclude on what my opinion is and why I believe it to be this way. Then I begin to broaden the topic and show how this is important to our world. Then conclude with a strong finishing sentence.

The introduction of the novel, The African Diaspora by Patrick Manning does a great job of outlining the goals of the author in writing this book and what the novel will specifically cover. He first starts by describing the time period he will study and how he chose to display the information. I think it was smart to start this way because he is writing a history novel so just thorough the first paragraphs of the introduction, the reader can gain a more specific idea of the information that will be accounted. Also by stating the reasons behind his organizational methods he shows the reader early on that he has a good grasp of the material, proving himself a reliable narrator. Next he specifies that his target audience is undergraduate students, which is smart because it lets potential buyers no right away if this is the right book for them. Then it runs through an outline of the main topics the novel will cover and the kind of questions the author will be asking and answering in his novel. I think this is effective because it prepares the reader for the writing style of the author and it intrigues the reader to learn more about each topic. Overall his introduction is structured very well and does a good job of telling the reader what his intentions and purpose is with his novel.

Vlad Molnar

September 15, 2015

Literary Response Letter

ENG-181

Do Not Go Gentle

June 1

Rome-New York

Dear Eunice,

Today I've had a great idea: We're never going to die. Others will die around us. They will be reduced, and nothing of their lives will remain, but we will never be forgotten. Never be nullified.

Don't let them tell you life's a journey. A journey is when you end up somewhere. When I take the number 6 train to work and think of you, that's a journey. When I beg the pilot of this rickety United-ContinentalDeltamerican plane currently trembling across the Atlantic to turn me around straight back into your beautiful arms, that's a journey.

But wait, there's more to it, right? There's our legacy. We don't die just because our children live on! The ritual passing of the DNA, Mama's corkscrew curls, his granddaddy's lower lip, ah buh-lieve thuh chil'ren ah our future. I'm quoting here from "The Greatest Love of All," by 1980s pop diva Whitney Houston, track nine of her eponymous first LP. It is truly a masterpiece. Maybe if we ever meet up we will listen to it together.

But what of our children? Lovely and fresh in their youth; blind to mortality; rolling around, just like us, in the tall grass with their alabaster legs; fawns, sweet fawns, all of them, gleaming in their dreamy plasticity, at one with the outwardly simple nature of their world. Our children with blissful ignorance will live happy and play without the worries of the world.

But alas, all good things must come to an end. In a brief almost-century later: our children will be drooling on some poor Mexican nursemaid in an Arizona hospice. But they like us will not be forgotten.

Reflection: The purpose of my writing was to further reveal Lenny's character and his feelings for Eunice. I wanted to show how his thinking, arrangement of ideas, and diction would be different if he were addressing Eunice head on. I wanted my readers to see that Eunice is clearly educated, due to the vast amount of books he has read, but he lets his infatuation with Eunice and his low self-esteem cloud his intellect. I also wanted to show he doesn't really understand her yet but he wants to help her.

I started by first deeply analyzing Lenny and getting to know his basic traits. He is, well educated, driven, innocent, loyal, and has no confidence. Then I took these attributes and adapted them and pretended he was writing to the love of his life going through sentence-by-sentence and making small edits to depict this new scene. My goal was to still keep Lenny's style but to change it as if he was personally talking to Eunice. I made omissions that deviated heavily from the text because those were things Lenny would never say to Eunice, since Lenny tends to be more gentle and understanding around her.

I feel like my strength was keeping the original style intact while still conveying my point and just overall sticking to the basic tone of the book. My weaknesses were probably my sentence structure and vocabulary since Lenny might have been a better writer from all the books he has read.



WATCHMEN PECHA KUCHA

VLAD MOLNAR



WATCHMEN
No. 1 of 12 \$1.50 \$2.10/CAN.

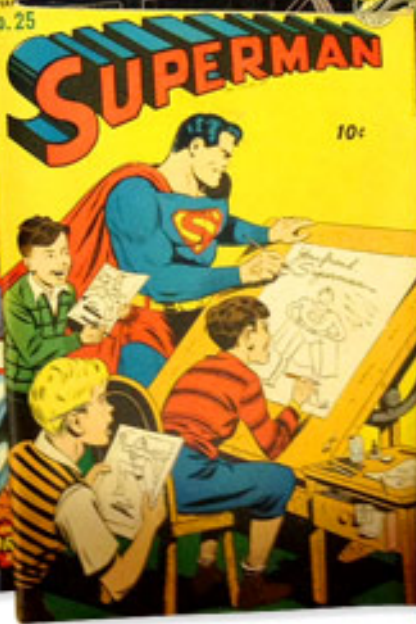
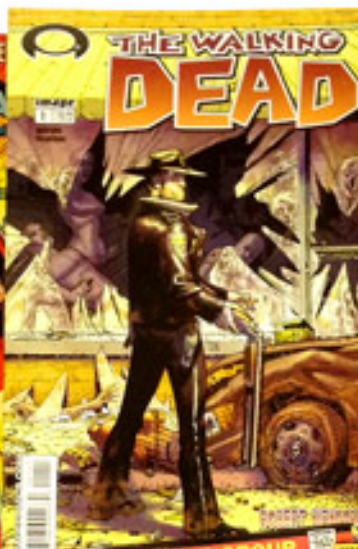


WATCHMEN



SEPTEMBER 1986







Get Help on Cold War Research Paper Writing with
www.writingservicescompany.com









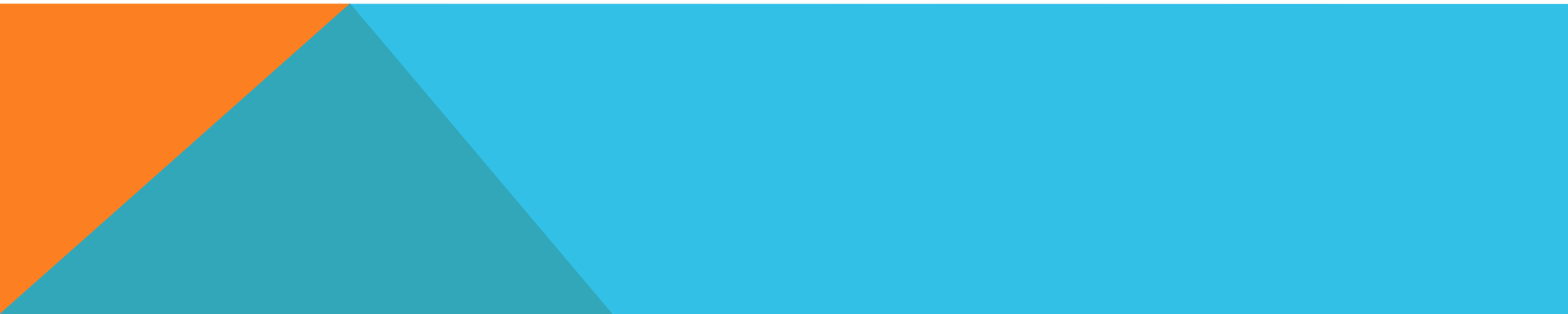
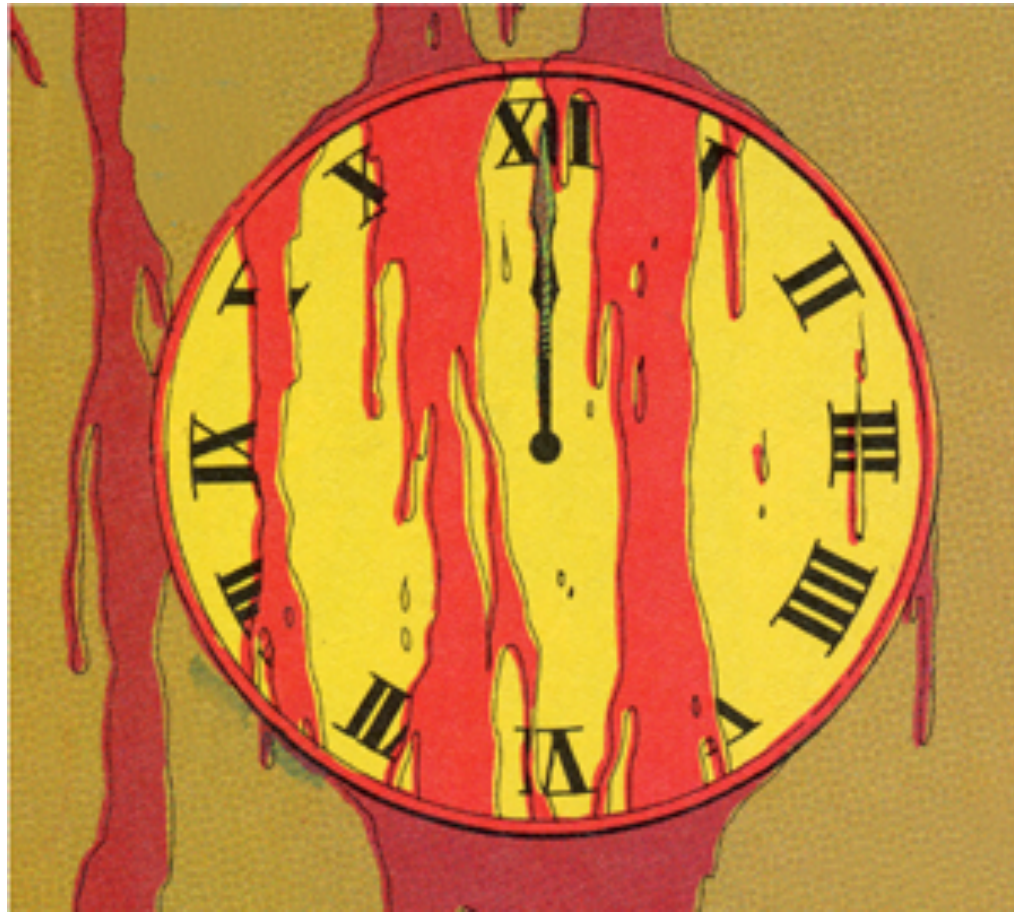












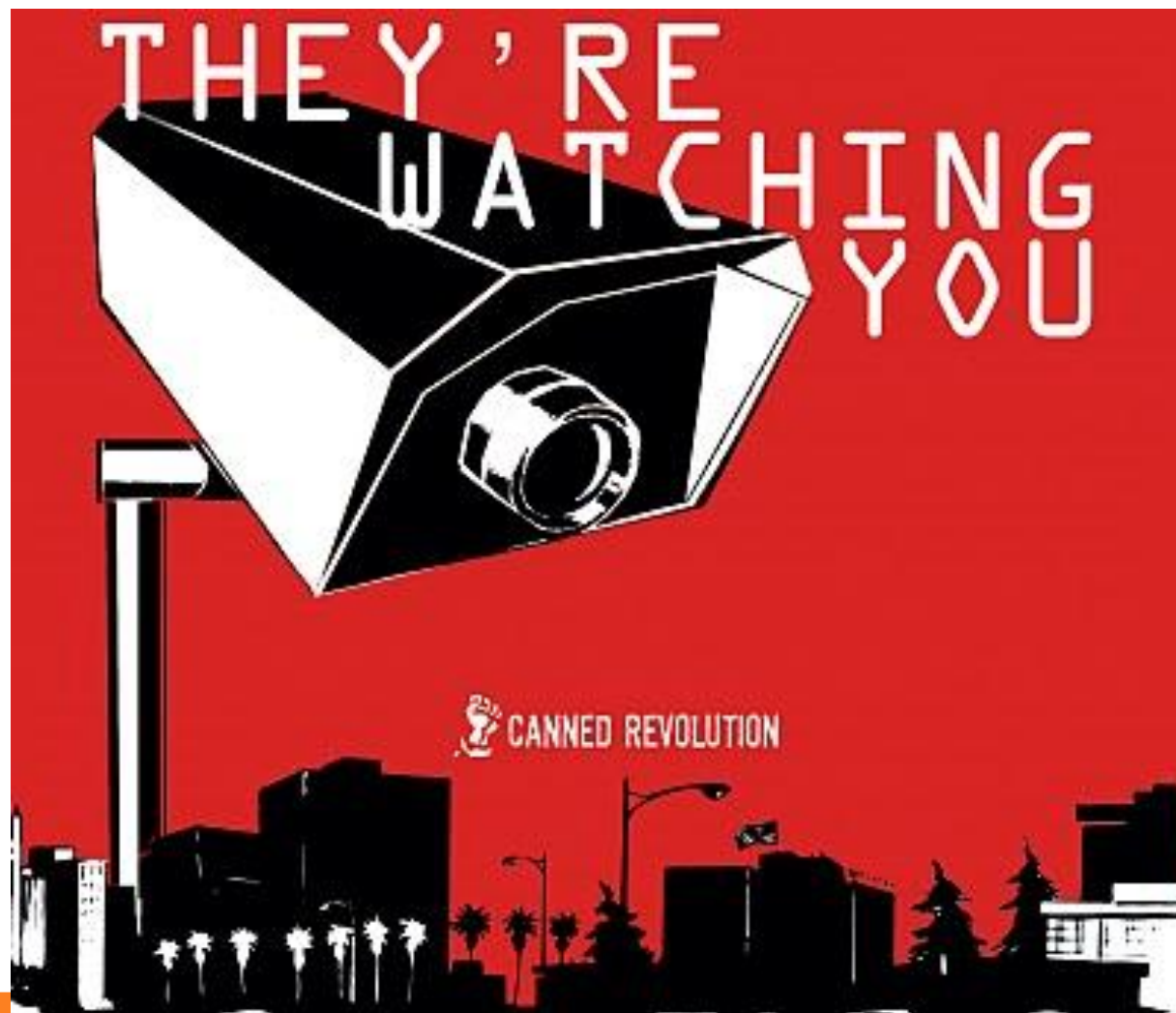


WATCHMEN

dccomics.com

TM & © DC Comics

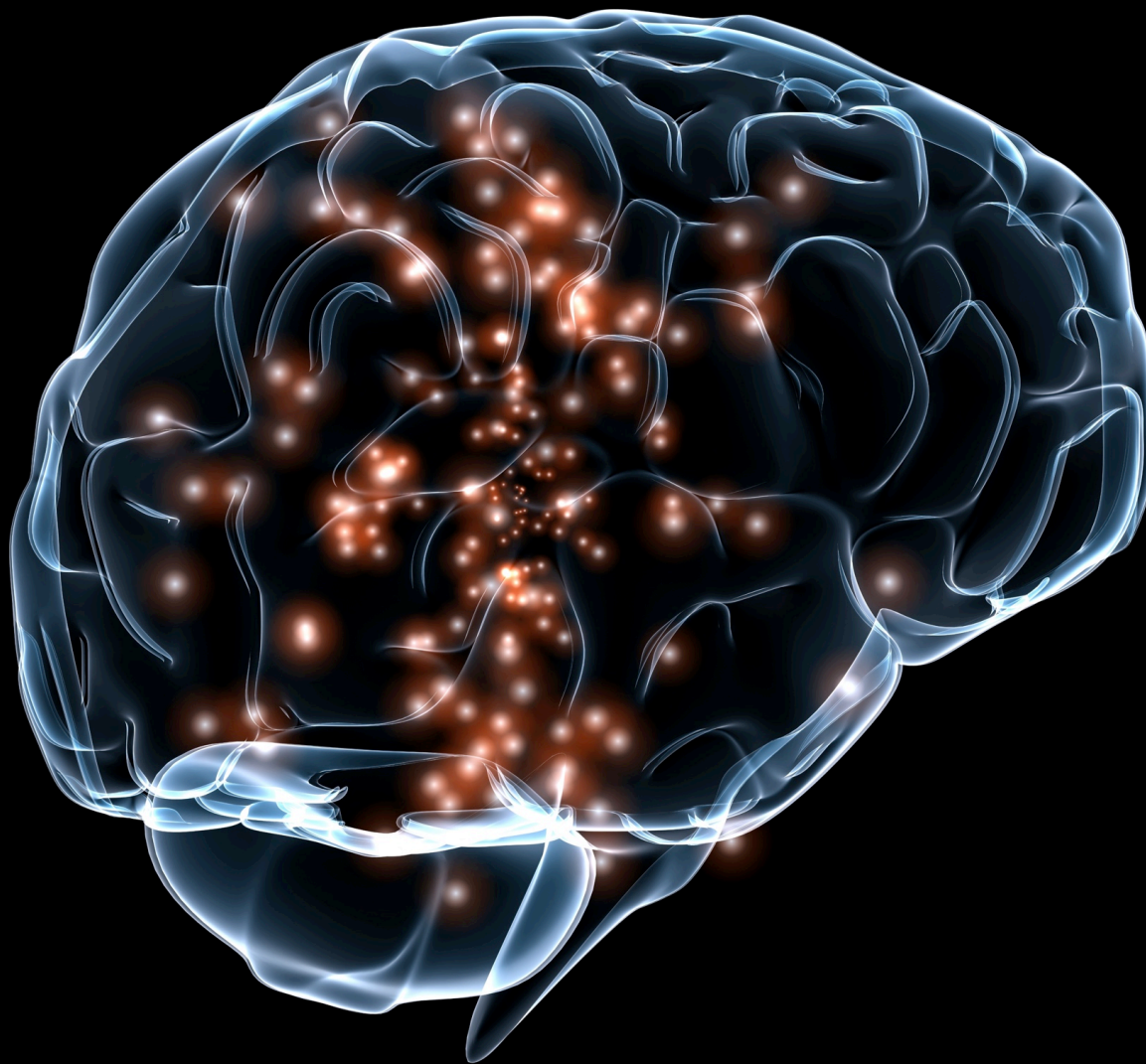






WHO WATCHES THE WATCHMEN? 😊







WORKS CITED

- <http://www.dccomics.com/characters/watchmen>
- <http://www.previewsworld.com/Catalog/JUN142587>
- <http://www.blastr.com/2013-1-28/holy-original-art-all-12-watchmen-covers-auction>
- <http://www.ochaplin.com/wp-content/2014/02/Roscharch>
- <http://www.fanpop.com/clubs/watchmen/images/14960175/title/who-watches-watchmen-wallpaper>
- <http://juliadownwithbb.blogspot.com/>
- http://geekstroke.com/movies/300cinematographer-to-shoot-batman-vs-superman/attachment/watchmen-rorschach-silk-spectre-malin-akerman-the-comedian-nite-owl-ozymandias-dr-manhattan-1600_www-wallpaperto-com_88/
- <https://www.haikudeck.com/the-cold-war-education-presentation-zkm3rd3gzy>
- <http://dc.wikia.com/wiki/Watchmen>
- <http://www.shmoop.com/watchmen/summary.html>
- <http://www.austinbooks.com/content/abc-were-always-buying-comics>

Watchmen Pecha Kucha Notes for Presentation

So I decided to do my Pecha Kucha on the graphic novel watchmen, written by Alan Moore, illustrated by Dave Gibbons, and colored by John Higgins. It was published in 1986 in a series of 12 issues by DC comics and basically depicts an alternative history of the cold war in which superheros influence the outcome dramatically.

So the image that I will be analyzing is the cover because the image depicted is one of the main symbols in the book and is most often what people think of when they hear watchmen. But first some background information on the setting and plot will make the author's argument more apparent. First of all one of the big themes of watchmen how superheroes would be like in a credible world and how normal people can become icons.

Watchmen is not like most comic books because all but one of the superheroes are actually just normal humans. Most comics in this time period depict aliens and people that get unrealistic powers in unrealistic ways and just fight equally unrealistic villains with equally unrealistic powers. They are set in a fake world clearly different than our own, but watchmen is different.

So this novel takes place during the cold war which was when Russia and America were at a nuclear standoff and the threat of a nuclear war causing massive destruction was seen as a very likely possibility. Both sides were building bigger and bigger weapons tried to scare the other into a quiet surrender. This was a time of fear, paranoia, and mistrust.

The main story takes place in New York City which at this time was the major hub of the US and considered one of the main centers of the world. The city is depicted as dark and desolate and filled with fear and chaos. The author chose a setting very relatable to the audience to try to make the story as real as possible.

Our main characters are the; Silk Spectre, The Comedian, Nite Owl, Dr. Manhattan, Rorschach, and Ozymandias, which collectively form the watchmen. They originally came together to watch over the city and protect average civilians but were taken over by the government to help America win the war. the story is all about interactions between these heros.

So the story starts with the death of the comedian and Rorschach's investigation of the murder and the rest of the watchmen. The button that is on the cover with the blood is what is found by Rorschach next to the Comedians body. Not only is this image on the over it is the first panel when the book is opened, so clearly it's important.

The Comedian is a big symbol in the novel. There are often illusions that he is the only one that can see how the world really is and that it's so bad that the only way he can move on is by laughing and treating it as all a big joke. In the novel he is the only one who knows the truth but chooses to hide it to live with himself.

The button is symbolizing humanity and the author is trying to show the flaws in humanity and how they are causing our demise. First of all the image is a smily face which most people use as a representation of an average person. It's what is seen as to be normal and happy, everybody knows and uses this sign. It's in the media, we use it in text and it is one of the most common emoji's. So a smiley face is being used to show the human innocence and then there is a streak of blood on top which shows how we are not as innocent as we think we are. With this streak of blood it shows the flaw in humans and reveals that we are not perfect. It shows how you can try to cover anything up with a smile but, its true meaning will show. People put on a smily face and pretend to be innocent but there will always be something tainting the innocence.

The button is also symbolizing a clock. If you treat the streak of blood as a hand it is a doomsday clock getting closer to the final hour, midnight. So this is showing how our actions are unknowingly getting us closer to doomsday. This is definitely relevant during the cold war because people believed that by making more and more nuclear bombs it would somehow protect the world when actually we were just putting it in danger. I also think this message is relevant now because there are a lot of things that we are inadvertently doing that is actually getting us closer to doomsday, such as global warming and overpopulation.

Another message that is being conveyed is that there's never really privacy and that everyone is being watched. This is a big theme in the novel is privacy and being watched. So the watchmen watch over the city, and the government watches over the watchmen and our government is being watched by others and there's a sense of loss of privacy and mistrust. So I think another big theme is that we need to make sure we are watching around us and not getting fooled by the smiley face but instead watching for the truth and accepting it.

The author uses pathos to present his argument with using a common image of a smiley face and surrounding it with blood in deep dark colors showing the smiley face being taken over. The image is made to shock you then analyze it.

He also uses logic with the characters showing these arguments throughout the novel and metaphors to explain his point

Vlad Molnar

Watchmen Pecha Kucha Reflection

The purpose of my presentation was to more deeply analyze a comic book and find and reveal the argument of the author. Most people treat comic books and graphic novels like they are for children and often disregard them as being really sophisticated and having hidden metaphors. I wanted to show that some novels are actually really deep and have themes that can relate to us. I want my audience to be surprised by the amount of symbolism one can extract from a comic just by implementing close reading. Also my goal was to show how the world depicted in comics is often, very close to our own reality.

I began my presentation by first just sitting in my room and staring at a wall desperately trying to think of an object that displayed our class themes and would be interesting enough to give a presentation on. Once I thought of Watchmen during our discussion I knew that it would be the perfect artifact. So then I started scrolling through and spent a lot of my time procrastinating for other classes by rereading this great book. After going through most of it, I remembered a great deal about the major themes the book had and the messages it was trying to convey. I chose to analyze the cover because it depicts a major symbol throughout the novel and the novel starts and ends with this same image. So then I started just gathering images that would be very good for my presentation and once I had thirty or so I began narrowing down to 20. After I gathered my images, I began trying to write a script that would be both entertaining and display the author's argument and intention. I feel like my image choice is very good because they all enhance what I am saying at

that time. I could have done better job of writing the script with more humor and just better vocabulary.

Vlad Molnar
ENG 181
27 October 2015
Paper Proposal

The Identity and Representation of Mary Shelly in Frankenstein's Monster

Identity and representation are huge recurring themes throughout the novel, Frankenstein by Mary Shelly which was published in 1818, so I set out to further expand on the identity and representation of major characters. Victor Frankenstein grotesquely creates a creature which most would argue to be a representation of himself. But, upon further inspection the monster does not seem to reflect Victor in many qualities and instead, Shelly uses the creature to reflect her own beliefs on femininity and beliefs from her time period. This is vastly important because by analyzing the novel and information on the time period we can better understand Mary Shelly, and other female writers from the same time. Authors tend to leave their a piece of them in their books, so by studying them we can better get a picture of them and their beliefs. I have found multiple sources that show how Shelly's views on femininity is represented through the book as well as other information on how her identity is preserved in the novel. My paper will show the how the monster's identity is a reflection of Shelly and her time period.

Annotated Bibliography

Vlad Molnar
ENG 181
27 October 2015

Salotto, Eleanor. "Frankenstein" and Dis(re)membered Identity." *The Journal of Narrative Technique* 24.3: 190-211. Web. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30225415>

The main argument the author is making is that Frankenstein intended to create a creature like himself but the creature does not turn out how he had envisioned; instead Frankenstein's monster reflects the author, Mary Shelly, and the society in which she lived. I plan to use this source as evidence that the Monster actually does reflect Shelly. This paper has a lot of elements that support my thesis so I can use it in many ways.

Hodges, Devon. "Frankenstein and the Feminine Subversion of the Novel." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* 2.2: 155-64. Web. 27 Oct. 2015. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/463717>

This article describes how Femininity is actually expressed in the novel and how this reflects the views of Mary Shelly and of the time-period. I will use this article as evidence that Frankenstein and his creation represent some feminine views. Also it has a lot of good information on the status of women during Shelly's time, which might be useful to open with.

Cottom, Daniel. "Frankenstein and the Monster of Representation." *SubStance* 9.3: 60-71. Web. 27 Oct. 2015. Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3683905>

Cottom focuses on the representation of Frankenstein and his monster. I plan to use this article to support some of my claims on the themes that the monster represents. Also some of his arguments disagree with my own, so I will attempt to argue against him and refute his statements.

Dickerson, Vanessa D. "The Ghost Of A Self: Female Identity In Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." *Journal Of Popular Culture* 27.3 (1993): 79-91. *International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text*. Web. 27 Oct. 2015. Stable URL: <https://login.proxy.library.emory.edu/login?url=https://search-ebscohost-com.proxy.library.emory.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ibh&AN=9406160333&site=ehost-live>

This source discusses the theme of identity across the novel and incorporates many views on how Shelly is implementing her views through the novel. This theme will be good in my opening because it describes identity through the book, which I plan to summarize. Also it is good evidence for how Mary Shelly incorporates herself in the novel

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein (Rough Draft)

Vlad Molnar

Professor Starr

ENG 181

12 November 2015

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein *The Cross Examination of Victor and the Creature's Identities*

Identity and representation are huge recurring themes thought the novel, Frankenstein by Mary Shelly, which was originally published in 1818, so I set out to further expand on the identity and representation of major characters. Victor Frankenstein creates a grotesque creature, inadvertently representing himself. Although he abandons his creation, the monster develops an identity similar to his creator. **Victor and his creature share similar identities that shape their development as characters.**

The monster arrived into the world new and pure with no thoughts and morals similar to a newborn baby. Just like a mother is expected to care for her child, Victor had responsibility for raising his own creation. But instead he cast it away and chose to run from his duty. Victor only saw guilt and remorse in his creation instead of a chance and distanced himself from this as far as possible. The creature after creation was banished away from his creator and cast out of society into the woods alone with no knowledge or experiences. This is the equivalent of throwing a newborn in the wilderness and running away and forgetting about it. The creature's first experiences into the world are being shunned and excluded. These experiences will influence him throughout his life. If his first experience of human culture is rejection and cruel treatment,

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein (Rough Draft)

he will not value human society very highly and will not see its value. The resentment and hate the creature eventually develops stems from how he was treated early on in his life. He was cast aside on his own into a tough environment with no tools to survive. This horrid treatment causes the creature to view the human race negatively and inspires a spark of revenge.

The creature is then forced to grow and develop in a harsh and foreign environment, frightened and alone. He had been seized by the cold in a desolate area and had to make new connections and experiences to survive. He had to learn that the sun meant light and warmth and how it set and created night. Out of harsh aches and pains, he had to discover that he must eat and drink in order to survive. He had to learn through rough experiences how to make shelter and survive and thrive. He grew up alone and his first experiences were isolated from anyone else. He did not know how to make connections or even how human interactions worked. This created a feeling of loneliness and exclusion from his very creation. These early feelings develop into the detached and ruthless demeanor of the creature in later years.

The creature first finds human life in the village and is greatly intrigued. He develops great curiosity for the relationship of the villagers and begins to study them greatly. He eavesdrops on all their conversations and studies their lives. He even learns to speak English very eloquently just from studying the interactions of the people and their language. After a while he develops a deep understanding of each villagers life and feelings. As he learns more and more he begins to feel connected and part of the community and the villagers themselves.

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein (Rough Draft)

This false sense of attachment stems from the creature desperate need to be included and a great desire to escape from his deep loneliness. Once he builds up comfort and confidence with the villagers he chooses to approach the villager that is blind and engages him in a conversation. Everything is going well and they are bonding well until more villagers arrive and they see his true form. Once they see his physical identity they completely disregard his thoughtfulness and eloquence and attack him. Even though he was emotionally like the rest of them the villagers brutally attacked and excluded him from their society. They ostracized and rejected him violently, until they drove him out of the city. This big and harsh removal scared the creature more than anything else in his life. Being so brutally excluded just based on physical attributes alone, sparked the hate for humans in the creature. This experience causes violence and a hatred for humans, his creator, and his own existence causing the savage rampage of revenge of Victor's family.

Victor Frankenstein grew up in a nice home with a caring family and overall good experiences. Except for the death of his mother, Victor had a good childhood and grew up in a nice and wealthy home. He was well educated and very curious of the unknown. Ever since seeing the devastating force of lightning he was curious and determined to study it. As he began his research he became so determined and absorbed in his research that he excludes everyone and fully engulfed in his work. He becomes addicted and obsessed which causes him to isolate himself and create deep loneliness and depression. These feelings of seeking companionship haunt

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein (Rough Draft)

him all his life as all his friends and family die making him truly alone and in desperate longing for a relationship.

Once Victor creates the monster he is filled with resentment and guilt for his creation. After he realizes that his deep obsession created a monster he flies from his responsibility and tries to find comfort. However, his deep secret keeps him detached from his friends and family and further drives him to loneliness. As the creature begins to personally attack his family, he begins to hate his creation. He swears revenge on the creature and they become interlocked in a constant struggle of revenge. They both hate each other and their creation.

Some may argue that since Victor and his monster have different backgrounds and are enemies, their identities will not be similar. Victor grew up with mostly positive experiences and was included in most things, while the monster was first treated with exclusion. Also Victor and his monster have deep hate for each other and both are seeking revenge on one another. However these differences actually bring them closer to the same traits.

It is apparent that Victor and his monster share big characteristics. The monster has derived a lot of his attributes from his creator. Both of them are ultimately alone and seek companionship. Both have been isolated from society and become absorbed in their own loneliness. They have both become outcasts and in society and this has caused mental and emotional stress and damage. A connection is also shared in their own inherent curiosity of the unknown and how it develops obsession. The research that both take on consumes them: Victor

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein (Rough Draft)

in his creation and the creature in the villagers. Both of these interests become to absorb them and often it causes them physical and emotional harm. The obsession of the unknown Victor developed was evidently passed down to his creation. As both become more and more affected by their creations, they begin to resent it and fight against it. Since its inception, Victor regrets his creation and feels guilty for all of his research. Once the creature kills the ones close to him, he swears revenge on his creation and starts a quest for blood. The creature also begins to loath his own creation. He hates the fact he was made into this world alone with no one to relate too. He blames Victor for making him and swears revenge on him. Both of them resent their creations and go on a fight against it.

Although Victor and his monster come from different backgrounds and hate each other, they share similar identities. Victor got his identity from his origin and how his research and creation shapes him. The creature had some of his identity given by Victor. Even with a different background, the creature still develops an identity similar to its creator. Also as the story unfolds both of their identities become more and more intertwined. Eventually both are on the same quest of seeking revenge on the other. They are left alone and constantly battle across the world with only each other.

Annotated Bibliography

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. New York: Dover Thrift Editions, 1994. Print

This will be novel that I will be analyzing in my novel. I will use this text as evidence for my argument and I will draw up most of my quotations from this novel to analyze and use as evidence.

Salotto, Eleanor. "Frankenstein" and Dis(re)membered Identity." *The Journal of Narrative Technique* 24.3: 190-211.

The main argument the author is making is that Frankenstein intended to create a creature like himself but the creature does not turn out how he had envisioned; instead Frankenstein's monster reflects the author, Mary Shelly, and the society in which she lived. I plan to use this source as the counter argument and present evidence and sources that disagree.

Hodges, Devon. "Frankenstein and the Feminine Subversion of the Novel." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* 2.2: 155-64. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

This article describes how Femininity is actually expressed in the novel and how this reflects the views of Mary Shelly and of the time-period. I will use this article as evidence that Frankenstein and his creation represent some feminine views. Also it has a lot of good information on the status of women during Shelly's time, which might be useful to open with.

Cottom, Daniel. "Frankenstein and the Monster of Representation." *SubStance* 9.3: 60-71. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

Cottom focuses on the representation of Frankenstein and his monster. I plan to use this article to support some of my claims on the themes that the monster represents and then further compare them to Victor. This will be a great piece on evidence form my paper.

Dickerson, Vanessa D. "The Ghost Of A Self: Female Identity In Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." *Journal Of Popular Culture* 27.3 (1993): 79-91. *International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text*. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

This source discusses the theme of identity across the novel and incorporates many views on how Shelly is implementing her views through the novel. This theme will be good in my opening because it describes identity through the book, which I plan to summarize. Also it is good evidence for how Mary Shelly incorporates herself in the novel

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in Frankenstein (Rough Draft)

Reflection: The strongest element of my paper is that I think my sentence structure was varied and I had a wide range of vocabulary. I believe that my writing seemed to flow well with smooth transitions. Also I think I did a good job of presenting evidence for the claims I was making. My weakness is that I had no quote integration, which is very weak for a research-based paper. I need more evidence from my sources to make my argument more valid and educated. This first draft was very basic because of my little time frame and intense work load in other classes, so I look forward to making many edits and revising a lot. This paper is in no way complete and I have a lot more to change and incorporate to make it better. I still have a lot of work to do until my final essay is ready.

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

Vlad Molnar

Professor Starr

ENG 181

5 December 2015

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*
The Cross Examination of Victor and the Creature's Identities

Identity and representation are huge recurring themes throughout the novel, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, published in 1818, so I set out to further expand on the identity and representation of major characters. Victor Frankenstein creates a grotesque creature, inadvertently representing himself. Although he abandons his creation, the monster develops an identity similar to his creator. Victor and his creature share similar characteristics in their identities in their, obsession of the unknown, exclusion from society, and their hate for their creations, which shape their development as characters.

The monster arrives into the world new and pure with no thoughts and morals similar to a newborn baby. Just like a mother is expected to care for her child, Victor had responsibility for raising his own creation. But instead he cast it away and chose to run from his duty. Victor only saw guilt and remorse in his creation and distanced himself from this as far as possible. The creature after being created was banished away from his creator and cast out of society into the woods alone with no knowledge or experiences. This is the equivalent of throwing a newborn in the wilderness and running away and forgetting about it. The creature's first experiences into the world are being shunned and

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

excluded. These experiences will influence him throughout his life. The creature ends up regretting his creation because of his creator's cruel treatment. This is seen when the monster is telling his story to Victor; "Accursed creator! Why did you form a monster so hideous that even you turned from me in disgust? God, in pity, made man beautiful and alluring, after his own image; but my form is a filthy type of yours, more horrid even from the very resemblance." (Shelley 93). This shows that the creature's disgust of being created. The monster never chose to be created and regrets being made and abandoned. If his first experience of human culture is rejection and cruel treatment, he will not value human society very highly and will not see its value. The resentment and hate the creature eventually develops stems from how he was treated early on in his life. He was cast aside on his own into a tough environment with no tools to survive. This horrid treatment causes the creature to view the human race negatively and inspires a spark of revenge.

The creature is then forced to grow and develop in a harsh and foreign environment, frightened and alone. He had been seized by the cold in a desolate area and had to make new connections and experiences to survive. He had to learn that the sun meant light and warmth and how it set and created night. Out of harsh aches and pains, he had to discover that he must eat and drink in order to survive. He had to learn through rough experiences how to make shelter and survive and thrive. He grew up alone and his first experiences were isolated from anyone else. He did not know how to make

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

connections or even how human interactions worked. This created a feeling of loneliness and exclusion from his very creation. These early feelings develop into the detached and ruthless demeanor of the creature in later years.

The creature first finds human life in the village and is greatly intrigued. He develops great curiosity for the relationship of the villagers and begins to study them greatly. He eavesdrops on all their conversations and studies their lives. He even learns to speak English very eloquently just from studying the interactions of the people and their language. After a while he develops a deep understanding of each villagers life and feelings. As he learns more and more he begins to feel connected and part of the community and the villagers themselves. This false sense of attachment stems from the creature desperate need to be included and a great desire to escape from his deep loneliness. Once he builds up comfort and confidence with the villagers he choses to approach the villager that is blind and engages him in a conversation. Everything is going well and they are bonding well until more villagers arrive and they see his true form. After he is discovered by the villagers he begs them for understanding, “Now is the time! Save and protect me! You and your family are the friends whom I seek. Do not you desert me in the hour of trial!” (Shelley 96). After this easy request he was cast out and attacked by the people he thought were his friends. He felt betrayed because he showed his true identity and they overlooked it and cast him away just based on his physical appearance. They completely disregard his thoughtfulness and eloquence and attack him.

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

Even though he was emotionally like the rest of them the villagers brutally attacked and excluded him from their society. They ostracized and rejected him violently, until they drove him out of the city. This big and harsh removal scared the creature more than anything else in his life. Being so brutally excluded just based on physical attributes alone, sparked the hate for humans in the creature. This experience causes violence and a hatred for humans, his creator, and his own existence causing the savage rampage of revenge of Victor's family.

Victor Frankenstein grew up in a nice home with a caring family and overall good experiences. Except for the death of his mother, Victor had a good childhood and grew up in a nice and wealthy home. He was well educated and very curious of the unknown. Ever since seeing the devastating force of lightning he was curious and determined to study it (Shelley 22). As he began his research he became so determined and absorbed in his research that he excludes everyone and fully engulfed in his work. He becomes addicted and obsessed which causes him to isolate himself and create deep loneliness and depression. These feelings of seeking companionship haunt him all his life as all his friends and family die making him truly alone and in desperate longing for a relationship. Just like his monster, he becomes excluded from society.

Once Victor creates the monster he is filled with resentment and guilt for his creation. After he realizes that his deep obsession created a monster he flies from his responsibility and tries to find comfort. However, his deep secret keeps him detached

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

from his friends and family and further drives him to loneliness. As the creature begins to personally attack his family, he begins to hate his creation. He swears revenge on the creature and they become interlocked in a constant struggle of revenge. After the murderer of his family Victor gets into a fit of rage and exclaims, “My revenge is of no moment to you; yet, while I allow it to be a vice, I confess that it is the devouring and only passion of my soul. My rage is unspeakable when I reflect that the murderer, whom I have turned loose upon society, still exists. You refuse my just demand; I have but one resource, and I devote myself, either in my life or death, to his destruction” (Shelley 148). Here we can see the full rage of Victor and the beginning of the quest for revenge. This shows that Victor and his creature both possess strong feelings of hate for each other and seek revenge above all else. They both hate each other and their creation.

Some may argue that since Victor and his monster have different backgrounds and are enemies, their identities will not be similar. Victor grew up with mostly positive experiences and was included in most things, while the monster was first treated with exclusion. Also Victor and his monster have deep hate for each other and both are seeking revenge on one another. However these differences actually bring them closer to the same traits.

It is apparent that Victor and his monster share many characteristics. The monster has derived a lot of his attributes from his creator. Both of them are ultimately alone and seek companionship. Both have been isolated from society and become absorbed in their

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

own loneliness. They have both become outcasts and in society and this has caused mental and emotional stress and damage. A connection is also shared in their own inherent curiosity of the unknown and how it develops obsession. The research that both take on consumes them: Victor in his creation and the creature in the villagers. Both of these interests become to absorb them and often it causes them physical and emotional harm; “No one can conceive the variety of feelings which bore me onwards, like a hurricane, in the first enthusiasm of success” (Shelley 32). This shows Victor and his creatures extreme pursue of the unknown. The obsession of the unknown Victor developed was evidently passed down to his creation. As both become more and more affected by their creations, they begin to resent it and fight against it. Since its inception, Victor regrets his creation and feels guilty for all of his research. Once the creature kills the ones close to him, he swears revenge on his creation and starts a quest for blood. The creature also begins to loath his own creation. He hates the fact he was made into this world alone with no one to relate too. He blames Victor for making him and swears revenge on him. Both of them resent their creations and go on a fight against it.

Although Victor and his monster come from different backgrounds and hate each other, they share similar identities. Victor got his identity from his origin and how his research and creation shapes him. The creature had some of his identity given by Victor. Even with a different background, the creature still develops an identity similar to its creator. Also as the story unfolds both of their identities become more and more

The Appropriation and Remembrance of Identity in *Frankenstein*

intertwined. Eventually both are on the same quest of seeking revenge on the other. They are left alone and constantly battle across the world with only each other. The creature is treated by all as a monster, but by analyzing his identity we can see he just wants to be included and have a companion. This is especially relevant in today's society because many people are often first judged by physical appearance and are treated in a different way, even if they have good intentions. We must take heed from *Frankenstein* and not be as hasty to cast judgment.

Bibliography

Shelley, Mary *Frankenstein*. New York: Dover Thrift Editions, 1994. Print

Salotto, Eleanor. "Frankenstein" and Dis(re)membered Identity." *The Journal of Narrative Technique* 24.3: 190-211.

Hodges, Devon. "Frankenstein and the Feminine Subversion of the Novel." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* 2.2: 155-64. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

Cottom, Daniel. "Frankenstein and the Monster of Representation." *SubStance* 9.3: 60-71. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

Dickerson, Vanessa D. "The Ghost Of A Self: Female Identity In Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*." *Journal Of Popular Culture* 27.3 (1993): 79-91. *International Bibliography of Theatre & Dance with Full Text*. Web. 27 Oct. 2015.

Reflection: A lot of the revisions I had to make were including quotes and sources into my paper that I previously did not have. My rough draft did not have any sources so on my final I incorporated sources in order to give my argument credibility. I had to refine the quote sandwich method to introduce my quotes and using them effectively. I focused most of my revision process on incorporating strategic quotes in my essay. Another big problem of my draft was that it had many small errors. I had to proofread and fix all the grammar mistakes I overlooked. Some sections of my essay were not concise so another big part of my revision process was going over my essay and seeing what I could condense. Throughout the semester I often did not look over my schedule and had to rush and do things last minute. A big lesson I learned is to plan my time ahead of time and start things early. My revision process was going over and fixing the mistakes I made by rushing the essay.