



The Monsters Within

Victorian Mindscales

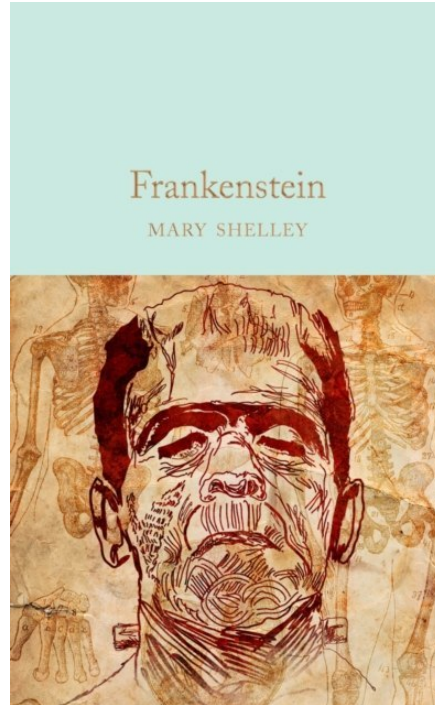
‘By exploring the monsters that lurk outside, we’re better at understanding the monsters within ourselves. I think that strikes quite nicely. The embodiment of the monsters we tell stories about are direct mirrors pointing towards the people or societies that were telling the stories about these monsters.’

(Nick Day – Myths and Monsters)

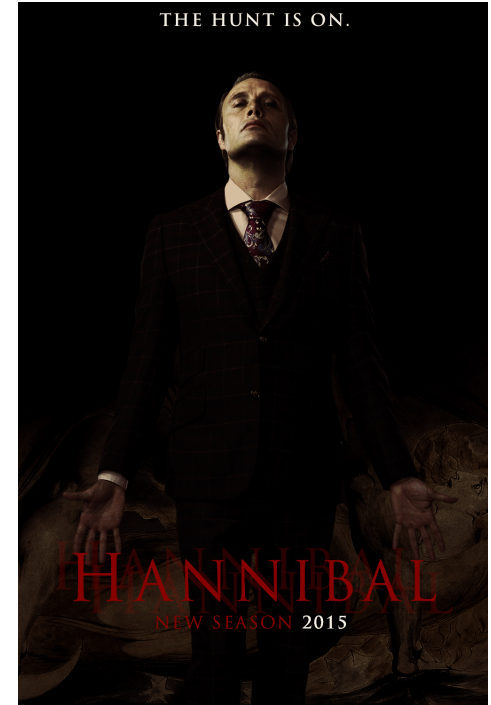
Evolution of a monster



Medieval



Victorian



Current

Victorian Literature Characteristics :

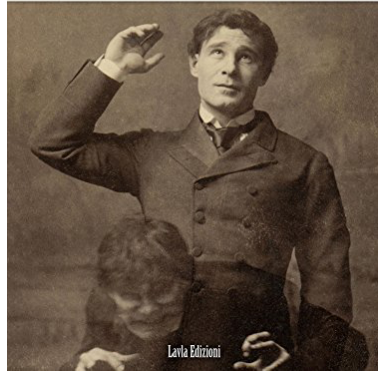
- Industrialisation
- Class
- Science vs religion
- Progress
- Nostalgia
- Feminine
- Utilitarianism
- Good and evil

Victorian Values:

- Strict code of conduct within society (reputation/ respectability)
- Chastity
- Law abiding
- Duty

Monstrous Humanity





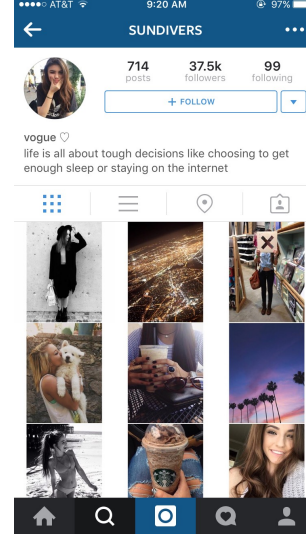
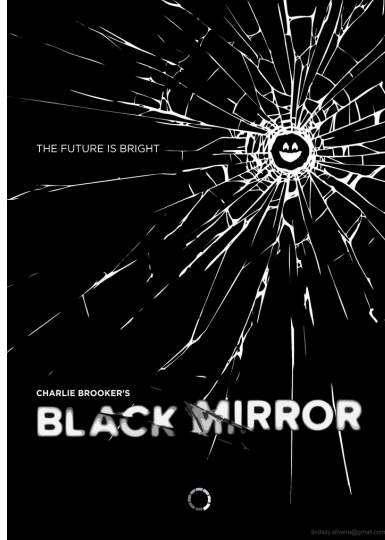
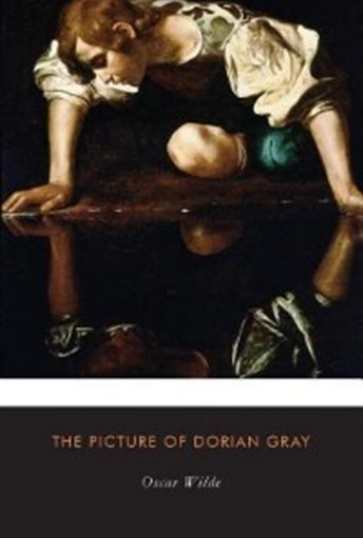
The function of a monster?

- Theme - Duality of human nature what is the line between human and animal.
- *Dr Jekyll* – represents the age, distinguished by politeness, bent on philanthropy, dedicated to duty and effort, mindful of reputation.
- *Mr Hyde* – represents animal desire, disreputable appetites.

Quotes Dr Jekyll:

'I saw that, of the two natures that contended in the field of my consciousness, even if I could rightly be said to be either, it was only because I was radically both.'

'My devil had been long caged, he came out roaring.'



Brief look at 'The Picture of Dorian Grey'

- A figure who believed beauty was everything and who tradeded his soul, but by the end of the novel a trail of murder deceit and scandal plagues the character.
- Superficial nature of society and individuals.

Monstrous Feminine

- Lilly Frankenstein aims is to surpass equality and achieve complete mastery.

“When some men fail to accomplish what they desire to do they exclaim angrily, “May the whole world perish!” This repulsive emotion is the pinnacle of envy, whose implication is “If I cannot have something, no one can have anything, no one is to be anything!” **(Nietzsche Daybreak: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality)**



Bride of Frankenstein (1935)



Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1994)



Penny Dreadful (2014)

What is a monstrous act or a monstrous character for contemporary audiences?

Human monster – ‘manifestation of that which disturbs the social ‘norm’, or troubles an existing understanding of what is acceptably human.’

(Monstrosity The Human Monster in Visual Culture Alexa Wright)



Modern monsters and the image of normality.

Task – Is a monstrous character or act a matter of perspective?

1. Examine the quotes on the work sheet and **discuss** in your groups how you can apply them to your story **idea, character** development or **visual** approach?
2. Based on your discussions **write a half a page of reflective notes** in line with your level focus:
 - **L4 students** –consider the psychological role of storytelling.
 - **L5 students** – how can you develop the ideas in your specialism.
 - **L6 students** – how does your project direction relate to contemporary audiences does the quotes/discussions present interesting directions.
 - **L7 students** – identify areas of interest for further research.