



The Humanization of the Other

By Kimi Fernandez Mendez

Humanization of Gothic Literature through the “Other”:

- *What does it teach?*
 - The perspective of the “others”, the outcasts, the villains, the disenfranchised
- *Why is it important?*
 - To provide a voice for the vilified of the literary world
 - Challenges the “us versus them” trope
 - Weakens the concept of “good” and “evil”
 - Human made constructs that are subjective and debatable depending on context



***We Were Here* by Matt de la Peña**

- Follows the story of three young boys through the perspective of Miguel
- Miguel's insight challenges the typical stereotypes placed on his and his friends characters
- Literary context provides the ability to empathize with Miguel and the other two boys
- *We Were Here* presents all the factors that are involved in creating Miguel's, Rondell's, and Mong's realities: environmental/social/cultural

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

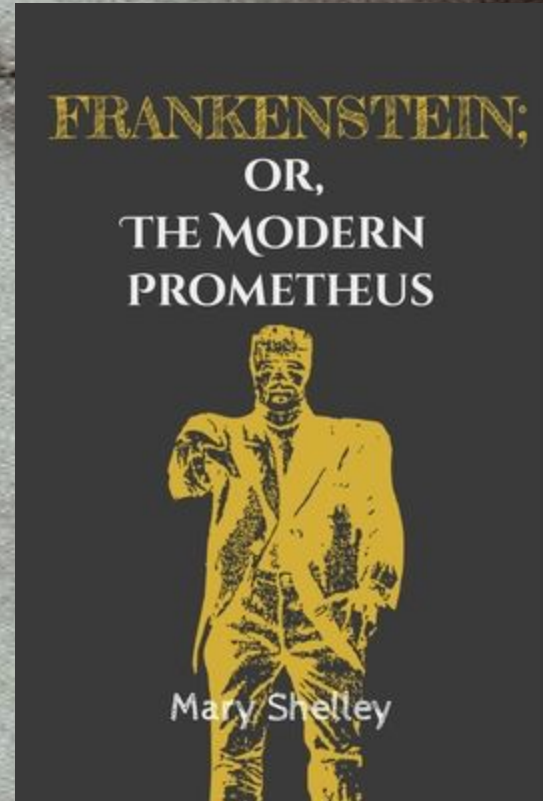
- Mary Shelley's classic *Frankenstein* is a prime example of the easy vilification of the "other" due to the imbalance of power within society



<https://thefablesoup.wordpress.com/2017/01/27/why-was-frankensteins-monster-created/>

Introducing the unit:

- Discuss the basic foundations of gothic literature
 - What makes a text gothic?
 - Romanticism and horror
 - Presence of the “other” (monster/freak/outsider/ etc)
- Discuss a classic gothic novel such as Frankenstein/watch a video: [Frankenstein - Thug Notes](#)

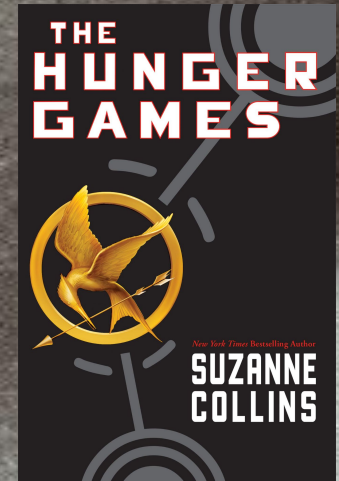


Working through the unit:

Class Activity:

- Choose your favorite:
 - Book
 - Tv show
 - Film
 - Comic
 - Manga
 - etc.

Write down all the important characters and categorize them “good” or “evil”



Beyond the text:

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

- Both *Frankenstein* and *We Were Here* are about disenfranchised voices
- Products of their environment (literally)

Arcane on Netflix

- TV show parallels the disadvantages and advantages of social classes
- Reinforces the humanization of the “other” through complex human experiences like *We Were Here*



Concluding the unit:

- Choose one character that is classified as the “other”:
 - List all the good qualities about this character
- Choose one character that is classified as “good”:
 - List all the bad qualities of this character

Answer these questions:

- Which character do you see yourself in more?
 - Explain
- Write one similarity between yourself and the “other” character