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Class

Research Paper

March 29, 2021

Working Title: Dr. Frankenstein's Spark of Technology

- A. Hook: Something about all of medical technology in fiction starting with a spark.
 - a. Reference the brief mention of a spark that brought Dr. Frankenstein's monster to life.
 - b. Set up thesis statement
 - c. Thesis statement: From one flicker of an idea in *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley offered future writers a world of possibilities in medical science fiction literature and kept scientists scratching their heads.
- B. Recap main plot of *Frankenstein*
 - a. Quote about the spark and "dull eye" opening (Shelley 58)
 - b. Reiterate how little information there is in the text about how the technology was built or how it functioned
 - c. Galvanization and other technology that existed in 1818
 - d. Left to the imagination of the reader, which could be varied depending on the reader's era (what someone imagines in 1905 isn't what someone would imagine in 2005)
- C. Introduce *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson as a novel influenced by Frankenstein

- a. Briefly recap main plot
 - b. Medical analysis of dual personalities as an off-shoot of medical science fiction
 - c. Connection between the “primitive” concept of a human (Sims)
- D. Influence of Mary Shelley on H.G. Wells
- a. Briefly Recap *The Island of Dr. Moreau*
 - b. Connect ideas about creating a species and bioengineering
 - c. Assumptions born out of limited technology (Martin)
- E. Projects born out of Frankenstein’s spark
- a. The Frankenstein Bicentennial Project
 - b. Examples of projects, such as *The Spawn of Frankenstein* and the annotated version of the book for scientists and medical doctors
 - c. Connect ideas about how people are talking about *Frankenstein* in both fictional and nonfictional worlds
- F. Explore actual medical technology that can find roots in *Frankenstein*
- a. Organ transplantation
 - b. Electro Cardioversion - shocking a heart out of afib (American Heart Association)
 - c. In vitro fertilization
- G. Recap main points of paper
- a. Something about how creative Mary Shelley was, perhaps without even knowing it
 - b. Final impression about how influential *Frankenstein* was in both literary and medical worlds

Works Cited

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<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/01/specter-frankenstein-still-haunts-science-200-years-later> Accessed 29 March 2020.
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- Martin, Alan. "Frankenstein, AI, and Humanity's Love of Fearing Technology." *Alphr.com*. 23 Oct. 2018. <https://www.alphr.com/life-culture/1010085/frankenstein-ai-technology>
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- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. Penguin Classics. 1818.
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- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Longmans, Green & Co., 1886.
- Wells, H.G. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Stone & Kimball, 1896.