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HS English A

Research Paper

March 30, 2023

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

- Cohen, Jon. "The Horror Story That Haunts Science." *Science Magazine*. 10 Jan. 2018.  
<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/01/specter-frankenstein-still-haunts-science-200-years-later> Accessed 29 March 2020.
- Electro Cardioversion. *The American Heart Association*. <https://www.heart.org/en/health-topics/arrhythmia/prevention--treatment-of-arrhythmia/cardioversion> Accessed 29 March 2021.
- Frankenstein Bicentennial Project. Arizona State University.  
<https://frankenstein.asu.edu/projects/> Accessed 29 March 2021.
- 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.
- Sims, Michael. "8 Books That Wouldn't Exist Without Mary Shelley's Frankenstein." *Electric Lit*. 23 Jan. 2018. <https://electricliterature.com/8-books-that-wouldnt-exist-without-mary-shelleys-frankenstein/> Accessed 29 March 2020.
- Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Longmans, Green & Co., 1886.
- Wells, H.G. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Stone & Kimball, 1896.