

Inglese

Frankenstein

Structure → Epistolary Frame at beginning and at the end of the story. The centre is narrated by Victor Frankenstein in 1st person, in the centre of Frankenstein's story the monster told his story when he met Frankenstein on Mount Blanc, after two months separation in which he "gets human eyes".

Main theme → Relationship between creature and creator. In human kind it's like mother and child. Another interpretation is an ethical-scientific one: what's the responsibility of inventor towards his creation? Another is "the modern Prometheus": Victor is an overreached, typical figure of western culture

Gothic Novel → Wild nature, mystery, appearance of creature. In the intention of Shelley, anyway, it was supposed to be a psychological novel, not just an horror one.

Preface →

- 1) Shelley's aim is to investigate human passion → Psychological novel
- 2) The novel in dealing with Darwin's theory (father of Charles Darwin) it's not impossible today
- 3) Introduces the "Gothic Hand" (Byron, Shelley, Keats)

The Spark of Life → Settings the novel in a typical gothic description (settings, atmosphere). Conclusion: (monster) "Beautiful? Great god!". The other important thing is the definition of the monster: spark of being → wretch → creature → monster

Percy Bysshe Shelley

A defence of Poetry, It's ARS POETICA. Why? It's a reply to The Four Ages of Poetry by Thomas Love Peacock. Peacock says that in 18th century there is no reason for poetry. Poetry for Shelley is *the record of best and happiest moments of happiest and best minds*. He says "*poetry is indeed something divine. It's at once the centre and circumference of knowledge; it's that which comprehends all science, and that with to all science must be referred*".

In the last part of this essay he deal with ancient Greece where poet and philosophers were the legislators. This is the role he cut for himself. He says "*poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world*"

Shelley was an idealistic young man. Was like a kind of leader. Was very wild and get like exalted in real life.

Ode to a Grecian urn

Ode → Very ancient and traditional form of poetry that has no fixed form. It's characterized by 1) Invocation 2) Archaism 3) Personification. The tone is very sophisticated, lofty.

Keats was self-ducted. All his knowledge came from his readings. He defined himself a "cameleon poet"

Keats uses the ambivalence of the terms: he uses the word "urn" but speaks of a "vase". It's a symbol of life, death or both? Celebrates the life as his perfect beauty, that's art. Art frozen the moment of life in a specific moment. In this vase we have two zones, with two stripes of pictures. In the upper we have

musicians, and a girl that is escaping, followed by the lover like "Apollo and Dafne". The background is a forest. This scene represent the individual life. On the other hand the second frame represent community life. There is a city, that's desolate, because it's empty, on the left and out of the city men are sacrificing a cow in a religious ceremony.

This ode is made by three contrasts

- 1) Eternity – Transition
- 2) Art – Life
- 3) Beauty – Sorrow

This idea of beauty came only from Keats's imagination, as he says in "The philosophy of composition"