

## Reading Project: Horror & Crime Stories



### An example: *Frankenstein*

A) Watch the short film and answer the following questions.

1. What is the whole film about?

short summary of Frankenstein

2. The extract can be divided into three parts. What are they? Give one piece of information about each of them.

Part 1: introduction of characters, general information on the book / background story

Part 2 (main part): re-telling the story

Part 3 : conclusion, short analysis / message of the book

3. How does the film show the content? What devices are used?

playmobil figures  
different backgrounds

4. Language: How do they tell the plot?

## The Project

### **Your task in short:**

- In teams, you are going to read a story
- For your story, you will shoot a short film in which you introduce your fellow students to the characters and the plot
- You will get an individual full-counting mark for this

### **Your task in detail:**

- In your team, select a story that you would like to work on (cf. list on pages 3 and 4) or suggest a story of your choice. Each story can only be selected once (first-come-first-serve basis).
- Read your story individually. Highlight and mark important information about the plot, the characters, initial situations, places, time and theme(s)<sup>1</sup> of the novel. Take notes if necessary.
- Discuss what your film should look like (illustrations, figures, background, any other specific props you might need, music, etc.) and how/where you want to shoot it.

### **Your film:**

- In your film, you re-tell the story with the help of different props and background(s), like in the example of *Frankenstein*.
- Your aim is a two-fold one:
  - tell the story
  - address the audience: make them be invested in the story
- Film – content: Write down your aims and how you want to illustrate the following things:
  - mood: will it be a sad story, a funny/comical one, an absurd one, etc.?
  - characters: what will you use to represent them? (some ideas: legos, puppets, action figures, Playmobil figures, cut-out pictures, (sped-up) drawing....)
  - initial situation: how will you introduce the story?
  - scenes & places: how many different scenes & places will there be? how many backgrounds will you need?
  - theme: how will you introduce the theme(s)?
  - follow the general outline of the plot: introduction (initial scene) – climax – end
- Film – technical aspects:
  - length: 5-8'
  - each of you must speak about the same amount of time (narration or direct speech, etc.)
  - sounds (footsteps, cries, music, etc.) are mandatory
  - title = “[name of your story]. Based on the book by [name of your author]”

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<sup>1</sup> A theme is an idea or point that is central to a story, which can often be summoned in a single word (e.g. love, death, betrayal, friendship, trying to make a better life, etc.). A story may have several themes, which are usually implied (= angedeutet) rather than stated explicitly.

**Your mark:**

You will get an individual full-counting mark for your film. Component 1 gives the same mark for all team members, component 2 is individual.

The mark is made up of the following components:

1. Film:
  - overall execution (how you transformed the story)
  - originality
  - inclusion of all elements (cf. above)
2. Language
  - quality of language
  - quality of grammar structures
  - pronunciation and fluency of speech

**Your Schedule:**

calendar week & date	work
calendar week 47: 22 / 24 November	introduction to task / selection of stories
calendar week 48: 29 November / 1 December	work on project
calendar week 49: 6 / 8 December	work on project
calendar week 50: 13 / 15 December	work on project
calendar week 51: 20 / 22 December	work on project
<b>DEADLINE:</b> Friday, 23 December 20:00	hand-in project (folder on Google Drive)

- The deadlines must be met even if not all members of the team are present; sickness/absence won't be accepted as an excuse for not meeting the deadlines.
- If you fail to meet the deadline, you will get a deduction of points (- ½ mark per 12 hours, for the whole team)

**Possible short stories – a brief overview**

- all Readings will be made available in copied form or digitally
- should you have a suggestion for a title that is not on this list, feel free to tell me so we can discuss this

author, title & year of publication	content
Naomi A. Alderman: <i>Doctor Who: Borrowed Time</i> (2011)	Andrew Brown works at a big international bank. He makes lots of money every day, but he never has enough time. Now, he might have found a way to borrow some. But, instead of making his life easier, more time might just give him more problems. Maybe the time-travelling Doctor can help!
Joseph Conrad: <i>The Secret Agent</i> (1907)	Mr Verloc, the secret agent, is a lazy man. He has a shop in London, where he lives peacefully with his wife Winnie, her mother and her brother,

	<p>Stevie. But when Mr Verloc becomes involved in an anarchist plot to blow up Greenwich Royal Observatory, things go disastrously wrong.</p>
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: <i>Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia</i> (1891)	A <i>Scandal in Bohemia</i> is the first short story, and the third overall work, featuring Sherlock Holmes. The story is notable for introducing the character of Irene Adler, who is one of the most notable female characters in the Sherlock Holmes series, despite appearing in only one story. Doyle ranked <i>A Scandal in Bohemia</i> fifth in his list of his twelve favourite Holmes stories.
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: <i>Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four</i> (1890)	Sherlock Holmes is bored. But a fascinating new case is just around the corner. The case involves a mysterious map, hidden treasure and a wooden-legged man, enough to intrigue even Sherlock Holmes.
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: <i>Sherlock Holmes: The Copper Beeches</i> (1912)	Violet Hunter visits Sherlock Holmes, asking whether she should accept a job as governess; a job with very strange conditions. The employer, Jephro Rucastle, seems pleasant enough, yet Miss Hunter – and Sherlock Holmes – have their suspicions.
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: <i>Sherlock Holmes: The Bruce-Partington Plans</i> (1908)	The monotony of thick smog-shrouded London is broken by a sudden visit from Holmes' brother Mycroft. He has come about some missing, secret submarine plans. Seven of the ten pages—three are still missing—were found with Arthur Cadogan West, whose body was found next to the Underground tracks. The three missing pages by themselves could enable one of Britain's enemies to build a Bruce-Partington submarine.
Agatha Christie: <i>And then there were none</i> (1939)	Some guests are invited to a lonely mansion on Indian Island by a host who, surprisingly, fails to appear. First there were ten, each with something to hide and something to fear. On the island they are cut off from everything but each other and the inescapable shadows of their own past lives. One by one, the guests share the darkest secrets of their wicked pasts and, one by one, they die.
Agatha Christie: <i>The Mystery of the Spanish Chest</i> (1960; original version: 1932)	Poirot is called upon by Lady Chatterton to protect her good friend Marguerite Clayton. Lady Chatterton is terrified that Marguerite's husband, Edward, with his violent temper will kill his poor wife. However, when Edward is found dead, stuffed into a Spanish Chest, Poirot must reassess the situation. Who could be responsible for this gruesome murder?
Stephen King: <i>The Body</i> (1982)	In 1960s America, four young boys go on a journey to search for the body of a boy killed by a train. As they travel, they discover how cruel the world can be, but also how wondrous.
John Le Carré: <i>The Night Manager</i> (1993)	Jonathan Pine is the night manager of a hotel in Egypt. When he is shown some secret information, he passes it to a man in the British government. But things go wrong, and the woman he loves dies. Pine is very angry and agrees to work with others to catch Richard Roper – the “worst man in the world”.
Karen M. McManus: <i>One of us is lying</i> (2017)	A geek, a jock, a criminal, a princess. A murder. Everyone has secrets. How far would you go to protect yours? Five students at Bayview High must stay late at school, but only four of them of them leave alive. Bronwyn, Cooper, Nate, and Addy all become suspects in a murder. Who do you believe?
Bram Stoker: <i>Dracula</i> (1897)	When Jonathan Harker goes to Transylvania to visit Count Dracula on business, he discovers that his client's motives for coming to England are rather more sinister than they first appeared.