

Grade 9 English Class 2

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and the Romantic movement



Step 11
Day after day, week after week passed, and
my attention to Geneva and my part in the
courage to command my work. I found the
vengeance of the disappointed fight. I
I should have overcome my obligations.
My health also which had hitherto declined
was now much restored; & my spirit like
uncheered by the memory of my unhappy
promises, rose proportionally. My father
saw this with pleasure and he turned his
thoughts towards the best method of
eradicating the remains of my melancholy.
Which every now and then would often
be felt & with a desecrating flourish over
cast the approaching dawn at his
moments to work, refuge in the most
perfect solitude. I was alone. I was alone
in a little boat. I was alone. I was alone
the lake. I was alone. I was alone. I was alone
the lake. I was alone. I was alone. I was alone

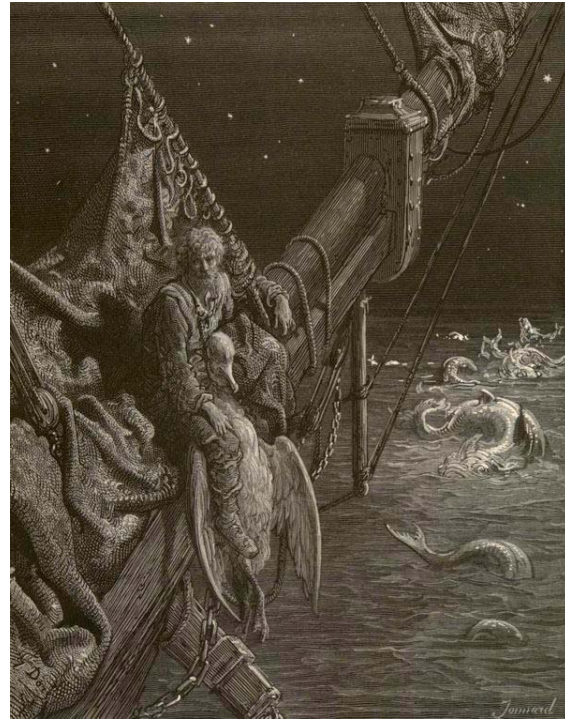
First page of *Frankenstein*, Vol. II, in Mary Shelley's own hand

... I cannot describe to you my sensations on the near prospect of my undertaking. It is impossible to communicate to you a conception of the trembling sensation, half pleasurable and half fearful, with which I am preparing to depart. I am going to unexplored regions, to "the land of mist and snow," but I shall kill no albatross; therefore do not be alarmed for my safety or if I should come back to you as worn and woeful as the "Ancient Mariner." You will smile at my allusion, but I will disclose a secret. I have often attributed my attachment to, my passionate enthusiasm for, the dangerous mysteries of ocean to that production of the most imaginative of modern poets. There is something at work in my soul which I do not understand. I am practically industrious—painstaking, a workman to execute with perseverance and labour—but besides this there is a love for the marvellous, a belief in the marvellous, intertwined in all my projects, which hurries me out of the common pathways of men, even to the wild sea and unvisited regions I am about to explore.

(Letter 2, Walton's letter to Mrs. Saville)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is about a man on a voyage by ship, who in one impulsive and heinous act, changes the course of his life – and death. The Mariner faces an inner struggle over the crime he has committed, and must understand his actions and perform his penance. He must also learn to abandon his negative views and openly accept all of God's creatures. The voyage now becomes a journey of learning important lessons in accountability, acceptance, forgiveness, and repentance.

(<http://www.studentpulse.com/articles/144/brief-review-the-rime-of-the-ancient-mariner>)



It is an ancient Mariner,
And he stoppeth one of three.
'By thy long grey beard and glittering eye,
Now wherefore stopp'st thou me?

The Bridegroom's doors are opened wide,
And I am next of kin;
The guests are met, the feast is set:
May'st hear the merry din.'

He holds him with his skinny hand,
'There was a ship,' quoth he.
'Hold off! unhand me, grey-beard loon!
Eftsoons his hand dropt he.

He holds him with his glittering eye—
The Wedding-Guest stood still,
And listens like a three years' child:
The Mariner hath his will.

The Wedding-Guest sat on a stone:
He cannot choose but hear;
And thus spake on that ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner.

'The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared,
Merrily did we drop
Below the kirk, below the hill,
Below the lighthouse top.

The Sun came up upon the left,
Out of the sea came he!
And he shone bright, and on the right
Went down into the sea.

Higher and higher every day,
Till over the mast at noon—'
The Wedding-Guest here beat his breast,
For he heard the loud bassoon.

The bride hath paced into the hall,
Red as a rose is she;
Nodding their heads before her goes
The merry minstrelsy.

The Wedding-Guest he beat his breast,
Yet he cannot choose but hear;
And thus spake on that ancient man,
The bright-eyed Mariner.

Iron Maiden's Adaptation



Go to this webpage to read Iron Maiden's lyrics accompanied by Gustave Doré's paintings (1876):

<https://basementgalaxy.wordpress.com/2014/09/>

And listen to the modern-day musical retelling:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7zk4as9kzA>



Media Literacy

Based on the images, could you tell what kind of genre Iron Maiden does?

How would you describe the sound of this genre?

What personality traits, ideas, and messages do you associate this genre with?

Do you think the genre is suitable for retelling a poem published in 1798?



Why does Walton allude to Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"?

This expedition has been the favourite dream of my early years. I have read with ardour the accounts of the various voyages which have been made in the prospect of arriving at the North Pacific Ocean through the seas which surround the pole. You may remember that a history of all the voyages made for purposes of discovery composed the whole of our good Uncle Thomas' library. My education was neglected, yet I was passionately fond of reading. These volumes were my study day and night, and my familiarity with them increased that regret which I had felt, as a child, on learning that my father's dying injunction had forbidden my uncle to allow me to embark in a seafaring life.

Letter 1 (Walton's letter to Mrs. Saville)



Discussion

- What do the letters foreshadow?
- How would the main character(s) behave?
- Will there be heroes? (What is a "hero" in literature?)

Hero Archetypes

1. Hero as Warrior
2. Hero as Lover
3. Hero as Scapegoat
4. Transcendent Hero
5. Romantic/Gothic Hero
6. Proto-Feminist Hero
7. Apocalyptic Hero
8. Anti-Hero
9. Defiant Anti-Hero
10. The Unbalanced Hero
11. The Denied Hero
12. The Superheroic



What is the Romantic Movement?

Romanticism (also the Romantic era or the Romantic period) was an artistic, literary, and intellectual movement that originated in Europe toward the end of the 18th century and in most areas was at its peak in the approximate period from 1800 to 1850. Romanticism was characterized by its emphasis on emotion and individualism as well as glorification of all the past and nature, the latter also being celebrated. It was partly a reaction to the Industrial Revolution, the aristocratic social and political norms of the Age of Enlightenment, and the scientific rationalisation of nature. (Wikipedia)

