

Lesson Five Big Question: What is meant by a “mad scientist” protagonist?



Date:

Time started:

Time finished:

Extract:



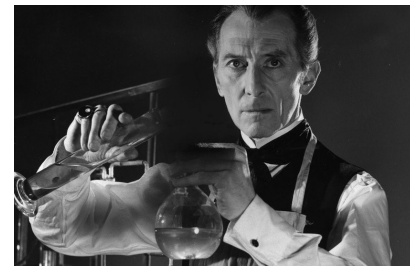
Frankenstein by Mark Shelley

One secret which I alone possessed was the hope to which I had dedicated myself; and the moon gazed on my midnight labours, while, with unrelaxed and breathless eagerness, I pursued nature to her hiding-places. Who shall understand the horrors of my secret work as I dabbled among the unhallowed damps of the grave, or tortured the living animal to animate the lifeless clay?

My limbs now tremble and my eyes swim with the remembrance; but then an impulse urged me forward; I seemed to have lost all soul or sensation but for this one pursuit.

I had returned to my old habits. I collected bones from undertakes and disturbed, with ungodly fingers, the tremendous secrets of the human body. In a solitary room at the top of the house, and separated from all the other apartments by a gallery and staircase, I kept my workshop of filthy creation; my eye-balls were starting from their sockets in attending to the details of my task.

The dissecting room and the slaughterhouse furnished many of my materials; and often I felt myself turning in hatred at what I was doing, whilst, still urged on by an eagerness which perpetually increased, I brought my work near to a conclusion.



Information retrieval questions:



1. Is the extract set at daytime or at night and how do you know?

2. When has he collected bones from?

3. What does he keep in his workshop?

4. What is his work nearing?

New Vocabulary.

Find these words and highlight them in the text.

1. eagerness (keenness)
2. pursued (chased)
3. solitary (alone)
4. perpetually (in a way that is never ending)



Write one sentence that includes each new word.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Stuff you need to know:

The Mad Scientist is one of the most interesting character types to be found in Gothic literature. They are almost always male and they are arrogant.



They are determined to 'play God' but they do not have the ability to do it well.

They have an overwhelming thirst for forbidden knowledge and want to make scientific discoveries that they know would not be approved of by society.

Task:

Re-read the extract. Underline any words or phrases that show Frankenstein (the main character) is a 'mad scientist' doing experiments which you think would not be approved of by society. Why do you think Frankenstein is a "mad scientist" protagonist?



EXT: Watch this video. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein summary. Who do you feel most sorry for? The monster or the scientist. Why?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XRppXdKDY_c

Reflection. Circle a face to describe how you found this work:



Teacher comment:

