Frankenstein

-BY MARY SHELLEY-

NAME..
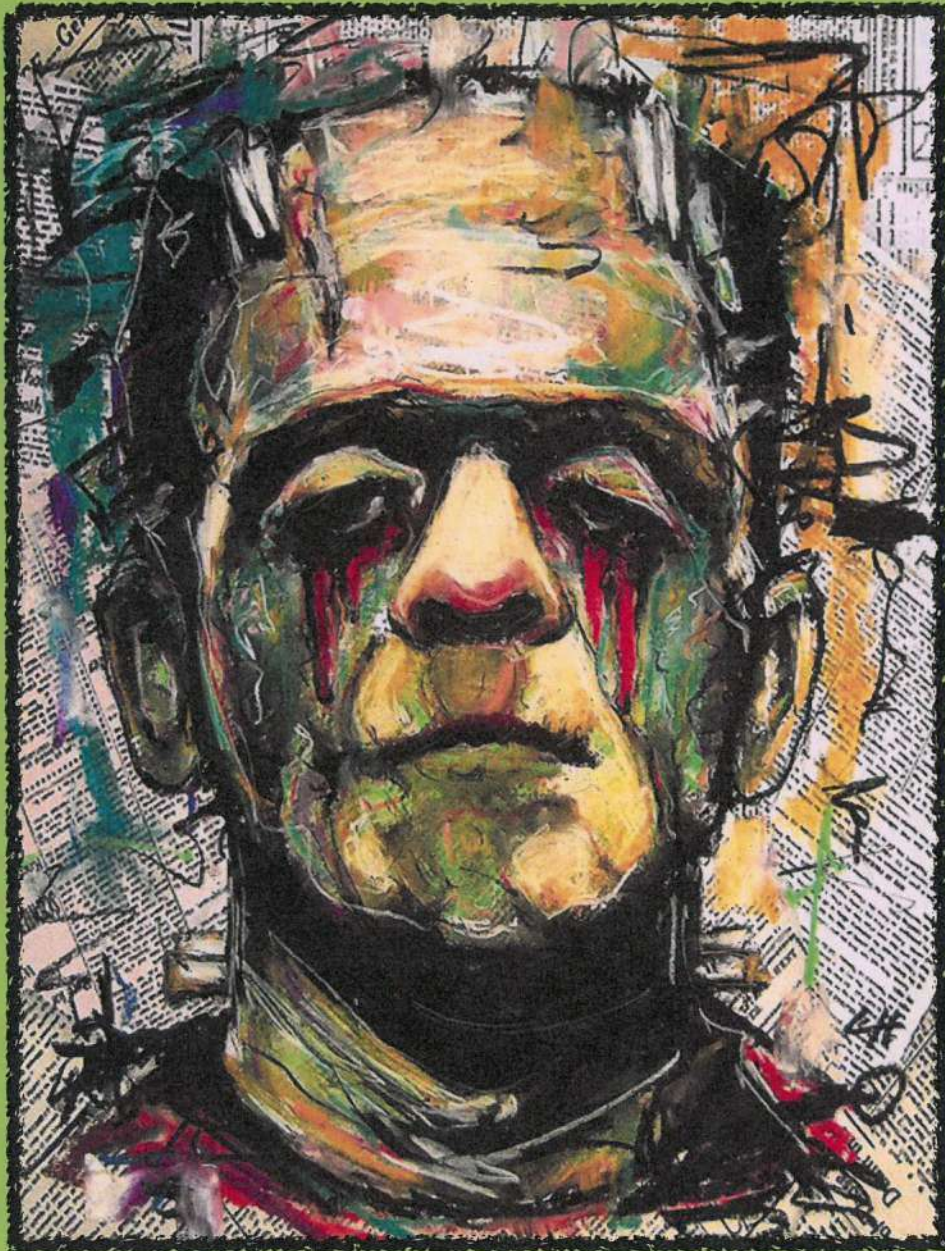
Beware,
for I am fearless
and therefore
Powerful

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.

~What's happening in this painting?~

Write what you think this painting is depicting. Remember to back up why you think this, talking about what you can see.

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What is _really_ going on?

Joseph Wright painted this scene in 1768. It is called 'An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump.' This was the Georgian era, just before the Victorian times. During the Georgian times (1714-1837) the industrial revolution started and scientific experiments were becoming more and more common. People wanted to understand the world around them and new technologies meant that this was becoming more of a possibility. This was known as the 'Age of Enlightenment' a time where reason and analysis became the new way of thinking.

People were fascinated by these experiments and this famous example was one that was performed by many scientists to crowds of people. The air pump was used to suck the air out of a living bird's lungs, showing that air was vital to life. This seems obvious now! But air is an invisible thing and so it was not until these kinds of experiments took place, that people were able to see the effects of depriving a creature of the air it needed to breathe.

What do you think of when you think of horror stories?
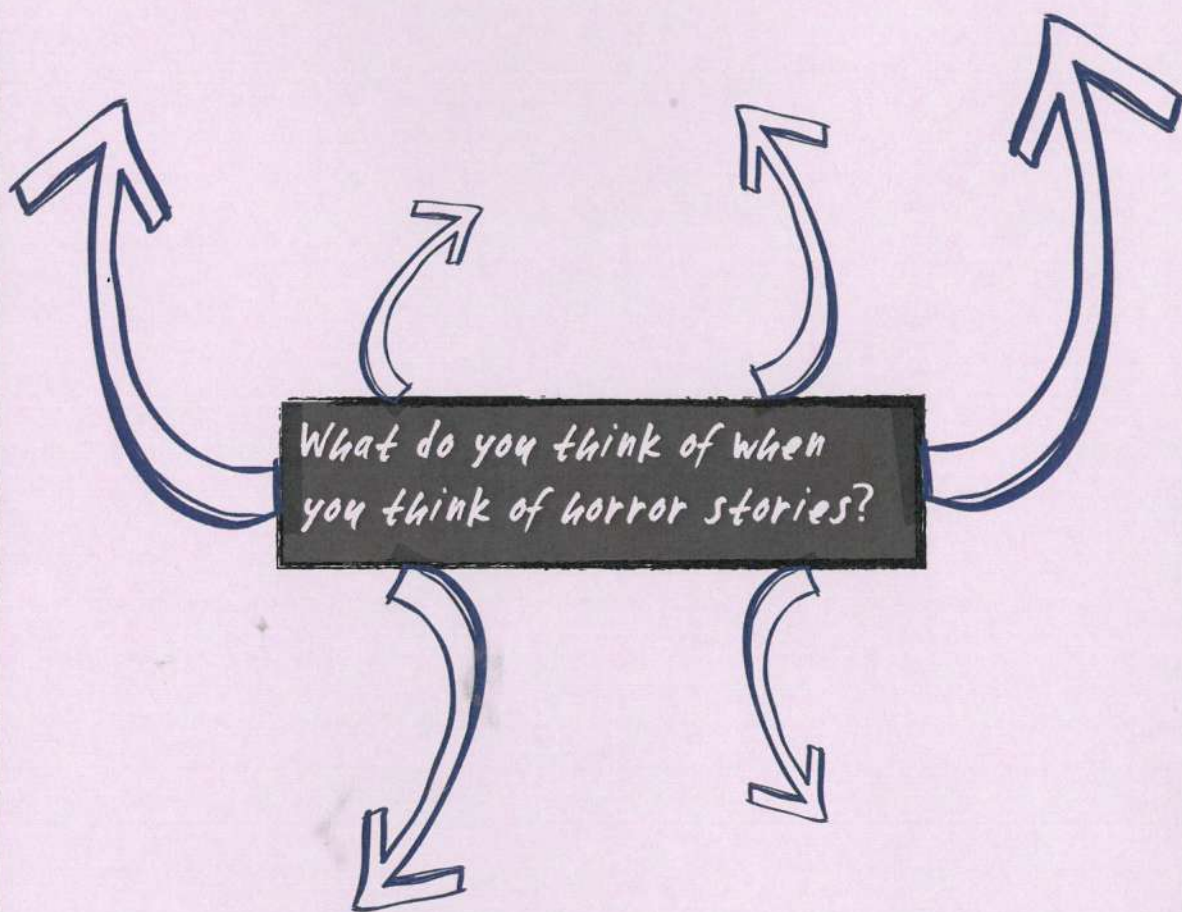
GOTHIC HORROR

Okay, okay, so what is gothic literature? First and foremost, it's a genre known for its spookiness. Think bats, cobwebbed castles, and nasty old tyrants holding good folks captive in towers. In other words, there's a lot of paranormal activity going down.

Gothic authors are also often really into concepts like the sublime. In literature, the term refers to a kind of out of this world experience that someone has in nature. And in gothic literature, it's closely linked with, well, sheer terror—all because the sublime is so awe-inspiring.

Gothic-Romanticism, is a sub-genre of gothic writing. Romanticism was a movement that rebelled against the stuffy old Enlightenment by valuing emotions over reason. What emotions does Gothic-Romanticism value over reason? Oh, you know, the usual: horror, dread, and sheer terror.

Gothic fiction is a combination of Gothic and Romanticism. It not only involved elements of fear, horror, death, and gloom, but it also included romantic elements of nature and very high emotion, such as fear and suspense, and often concentrated on individuality.
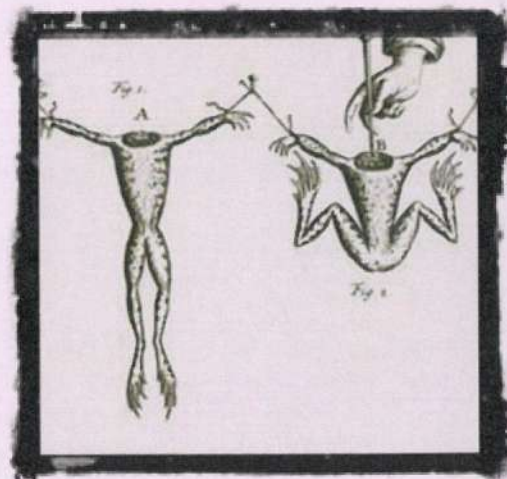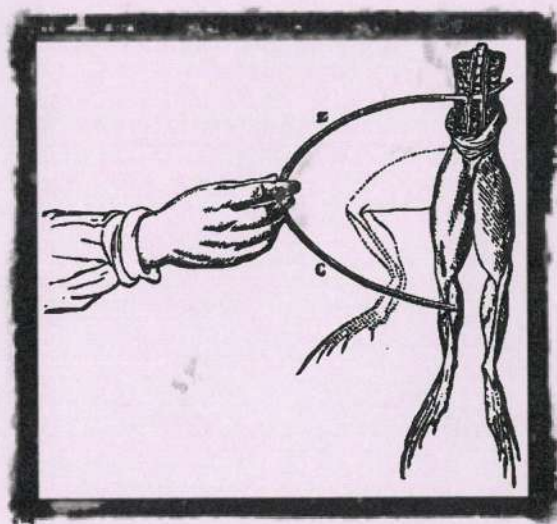
SPARKS OF LIFE

In January 1803, the body of the murderer George Forster was pulled from the gallows of Newgate Prison in London and taken to the Royal College of Surgeons. There, before an audience of doctors and curiosity-seekers, Giovanni Aldini, nephew of the late Luigi Galvani, prepared to return the corpse to life.

At least, that is what some of the spectators thought they were witnessing. When Aldini applied conducting rods, connected to a large battery, to Forster's face, "the jaw began to quiver, the adjoining muscles were horribly contorted, and the left eye actually opened". The climax of the performance came as Aldini probed Forster's rectum, causing his clenched fist to punch the air, as if in fury, his legs to kick and his back to arch violently.

Aldini's was one of many such experiments on corpses. He and other "galvanists" were continuing the research of the late University of Bologna anatomist who, a decade previously, had demonstrated the effects of electrical current on frogs' nervous systems. In line with late 18th century "vitalist" ideas about a life force, Galvani proposed the existence of "animal electricity". This electrical juice, he suggested, was generated in the brain, flowing through the nerves and supplying muscles with power.

Although a great proponent of electricity's medical potential - it was used to treat paralysis, rheumatism, as a purgative and to revive drowned people -Aldini admitted that he was unable to restart a heart.

Others were less modest, including Carl August Weinhold, a German scientist who claimed to have brought animals back from the dead. In a series of experiments, Weinhold extracted the spinal cords of decapitated kittens, replacing them with zinc and sliver pile batteries, which generated an electrical charge. Not only did their hearts start beating but, according to Weinhold, the kittens bounded around for several minutes.

The electrifying demonstrations of Aldini, Weinhold and others contributed much to our understanding of physiology and electricity. Perhaps their greatest claim to fame was inspiring Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1818), the book that forever shaped the popular image of the mad scientist.

Imagine what it was like to be there...

Imagine you are part of the audience that watched this gruesome experiment. You must write a page long account of what you saw, how it made you feel and what you thought of it all.

To help you:

Consider adjectives and adverbs you could use to make your piece of writing come to life:

ADJECTIVES AND ADVERBS

What parts would really stick out to? Was it how the dead man's face looked? The colour of his skin? The look on the scientist's face? The smell of burning flesh? Mind map your ideas below:

SIGHTS, SOUNDS AND SMELLS

Mary Shelley

**→ Author ←**

Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary's mother was the famous feminist Mary Wollstonecraft. Feminists believe that women and girls should have the same rights and opportunities as men and boys. She wrote an important book called "A Vindication of the Rights of Women" which said that girls should be able to go to the same schools as boys. What do you think?

William Godwin

Mary's father was a political philosopher, this means that he had alternative ideas about how people should live. He believed in anarchy- which is when their are no rules made by the government- and that people shouldn't have to get married if they didn't want to. He was also a writer and wrote novels about his theories.

1797 - 1851
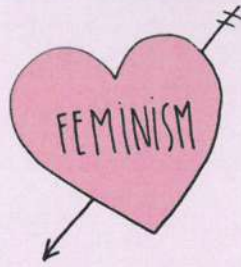
FEMINISM — WHAT IS IT??

Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men.

Pros

Cons

Feminism

What do you think? Is feminism a good thing or a bad thing? Use at least one of your pros/cons to back up your argument.

~SKIMMING AND SCANNING~

Skimming and scanning are two specific speed-reading techniques, which enable you to cover a vast amount of material very rapidly. These techniques are similar in process but different in purpose. Quickly "looking over" an article is neither skimming nor scanning. Both require specific steps to be followed.

SKIMMING is a method of rapidly moving the eyes over text with the purpose of getting only the main ideas and a general overview of the content. Skimming is useful in three different situations:

- **Pre-reading**--Skimming is more thorough than simple previewing and can give a more accurate picture of text to be read later.
- **Reviewing**--Skimming is useful for reviewing text already read.
- **Reading**--Skimming is most often used for quickly reading material that, for any number of reasons, does not need more detailed attention.

Steps in skimming an article:

- **Read the title**--it is the shortest possible summary of the content.
- **Read the introduction** or lead-in paragraph.
- **Read the first paragraph completely**.
- If there are **subheadings, read each one**, looking for relationships among them.
- **Read the first sentence of each remaining paragraph**.

The main idea of most paragraphs appears in the first sentence.

If the author's pattern is to begin with a question or anecdote, you may find the last sentence more valuable.

Dip into the text looking for:

- Clue words that answer who, what, when, why, how
- **Proper nouns**
- **Unusual words**, especially if capitalised
- **Enumerations**
- Qualifying adjectives (**best, worst, most**, etc.)
- Typographical cues--**italics, boldface, underlining,** asterisks, etc.
- **Read the final paragraph completely**.

Mastering the art of skimming effectively requires that you use it as **frequently as possible**.

Skimming can usually be accomplished at about 1000 words per minute.

SCANNING rapidly covers a great deal of material in order to locate a specific fact or piece of information.

Scanning is very useful for finding a specific name, date, statistic, or fact without reading the entire article.

Steps in scanning an article:

- Keep in mind at all times **what it is you are searching for**.
- If you **hold the image of the word** or idea clearly **in mind**, it is likely to appear more clearly than the surrounding words.
- Anticipate in what form the information is likely to appear—
- **numbers, proper nouns**, etc.
- **Analyse the organisation** of the content before starting to scan.

If material is familiar or fairly brief, you may be able to scan the entire article in a single search.

If the material is lengthy or difficult, a preliminary skimming may be necessary to determine which part of the article to scan.

- Let your **eyes run rapidly** over several lines of print at a time.
- When you find the sentence that has the **information you seek, read the entire sentence**.

In scanning, you must be willing to skip over large sections of text without reading or understanding them.

Scanning can be done at 1500 or more words per minute.

RIGHT, LET'S TRY IT OUT!

MY DEFINITIONS OF SKIMMING AND SCANNING:

(AND WHY THEY ARE USEFUL!)

SKIMMING:

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SCANNING:

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REMEMBER!!!

CHANGE PARAGRAPHS WHEN:

*A NEW CHARACTER ENTERS THE SCENE

*THE SETTING CHANGES

*A NEW EVENT HAPPENS

*THE TIME CHANGES SIGNIFICANTLY

*A NEW PERSON IS SPEAKING

*THE "CAMERA" MOVES

*A NEW IDEA IS INTRODUCED