

Frankenstein and bladerunner essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

It is noted that he is ashamed and disgusted of what he is doing but continues regardless – “ often did my human nature turn with loathing from my occupation, whilst, still urged on by an eagerness which perpetually increased, I brought my work near to conclusion.

The beauties of summer no longer arouse him – for a romantic author this is the ultimate denial of humanity – ; my eyes were insensible to the charms of nature’ Influenced by scientific discovery of the period Galvanism and discovery of electricity Shelley novel warns the scientists of the time by questioning the consequences of unlimited scientific discovery seek for knowledge and wisdom, as I once did; I... Hope that the gratification of your wishes will not be a serpent to sting you, as mine has been. ” Forewarning the dangers of knowledge.

Milton: “ Know to know no more.

Scott warns of the oncoming depletion of society as a result of unrestrained capitalism, consumerism and globalization. Mass corporate advertising everywhere (Coca Cola, Budweiser) PAN AM sign juxtaposed with massive billboard depicting Asian lady eating a pill setting: significant climactic changes, acid rain, completely void of nature, neon sights Asian advertising -? massive electronic billboards Riddles message vilifies Reggae’s political inaction towards environmental No trees anywhere, all animals are artificial – snake and owl etc. Do you like our Declared automatically responds “ is it artificial? Rachel nonchalantly replies “ Of course it is. ” Emphasis that everything that appears to be real is in fact artificial. Preserving natural order – making sure man doesn’t usurp the role of God “ I will pioneer a new

way, explore unknown powers, and unfold to the world the deepest mysteries of creation” – Chi 1 .

– foreshadowing of Frankincense’s ‘ Pandora’s box’ situation During Shelley time of discovery the boundaries of nature were only seen as things to push, not as limits.

Use of biblical allusions emphasis Frankincense’s challenge of God The Monster compares himself to Adam – Adam was Ovid by god and given a partner when he asked for it. The monster’s request was rejected. Question of moral culpability – Frankincense is being punished for assuming the role of god The name Victor could be a reference to Milton’s ‘ Paradise Lost’ in which god is often referred to as the Victor’. “ How dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge” – Victor’s retrospective words The Monster develops his own sense of morality without the teachings of Christianity or from his creator.

He explains his “ ardor for virtue” and “ abhorrence for vice” without having studied any religious scriptures. Despite all his suffering, Victor never cries out to God for forgiveness nor prays to him for help. “ I swear, by the sun and the blue sky of heaven that if you grant my prayer..

.” – the monster prays to Frankincense. Does he consider Frankincense to be his God? Similar to the story of Adam and Lucifer from the Bible. The monster (like Adam) is treated like Lucifer despite being innocent and his poor treatment turns him into a devilish character.

Frankincense is like Lucifer because he tries to usurp the role of God.

Frankincense always refers to the monster as “ demon”. The daemon who caused this misery until he or I shall perish in mortal conflict...

. Let the cursed and hellish monster drink deep of agony; let him feel the despair that now torments me. ” Consider: the text was written during an era when society started to become secularists – rather than blaming God or Lucifer, human beings were being blamed. Is Frankincense also being punished for his own actions?

He refuses to acknowledge that the creation of the monster was entirely his doing and denies his responsibility for its actions. As soon as Elizabeth is introduced she is depicted as an angel – “ her hair was the brightest living gold..

. One could behold her without looking on her as of a distinct species, a being heaven-sent, and bearing a celestial lamp in all her features” Victor regards his sense of morality highly, and is always trying to do what is right for humanity, especially because of his guilt for unleashing the monster upon them.

When he decides not to create a second monster, it is a precautionary measure to prevent a whole race of monsters following. “ I had begun life with benevolent intentions and thirsted for the moment when I should put them Tersely lives in a pyramid/Gujarat Symbolic of his ego Represents god-like status Only scene that depicts the sun – the Gujarat is positioned above the clouds to give the impression of God’s place in heaven.

Highly scientific modernized shot Tersely wears large thick glasses to show his intelligence/intellectual superiority as well as emphasizing his eyes - costuming, characterization. Furthermore shows his ' short-sightedness' Corporate advertising is the religious ' script' of the new consumer religion - the floating ships periodically springing the ' off-world' colony drowns out all noise, reminiscent of the call to prayer in Muslim countries What is humanity?

Does being human mean having humanity? Is the morality of the aerators compromised? Frankincense Humanity assumes a position of superiority over the rest - they lose their morality The creature is able to relate to the ' pleasant showers and genial warmth' Monster shows inherent sense of morality Shows knowledge of right and wrong without being exposed to moral scripts/religion Frankincense is being punished for his lack of concern for his creation - drawn from Shelley context.

She was raised with an appreciation of family, compassion etc. The monster begins as a blank slate - born innocent. He becomes a villain because of his negative experiences with humanity who makes him believe he is a monster.

Leads to self-loathing Contextual references: Rousseau: iii) The corruption of man - the creature was pure until he discovered society. (Rousseau) " The natural decay and corruption of the human body. (50) Shelley read John Locke essays: idea that individuals are born neutral and become good or bad according to their experiences Humans moral integrity is degraded by their prejudice. De Lackey's moral integrity is intact because his blindness compromises his ability to be superficial.

When the monster is rejected harshly by the DeLays, this is the turning point when he decides to turn on unanimitly ' my protectors had departed, and had broken the only link that held me to the world' " feelings of revenge and hatred filled my bosom...

I bent my mind towards injury and death. " - reflective of the human condition of relying on revenge to counteract rejection Romanticism: man and nature must exist in harmony, appreciation of nature at its wildest.

" My senses were gratified and refreshed by a thousand scents of delight and a thousand sights of beauty. " Sentiment expressed in similar ways by Walton, Victor and the creature - an intrinsic aspect of humanity. Shelley positions us to feel sympathy for the monster

Victor believes it is morally acceptable to kill the monster, but not fair for the monster to kill his family. Is this balanced? He could easily have been kind to the monster and taught it to fit in to society but instead he sought to exclude it. " I felt that I had no right to share their intercourse.

" - Victor doesn't want to interact with society because More ' humanism' is displayed in the replicates than by any humans Emotion All the humans, predominantly DeLayed and Tersely seem void of compassion, love etc.

Roy and Prism quote poetry " Fiery the angels fell. Deep thunder rolled around their shores, burning with the fire f Orca" - Blake " I think, Sebastian; therefore I am" - Descartes Used to elicit our sympathy for the replicates The romantic language of the Replicates compared with the humans colloquialisms creates another contrast - furthermore, the Romantic

language does not fit in the mechanisms cosmopolitan environment the Replicates live in. Empathy The tests to prove replicate require proof that they lack empathy.

The irony of this is that as the Blunderer's 'retire' the replicate they abandon their empathy for the replicate, essentially putting themselves on the same level. Every product is noninsured a product for exploitation Replicate (as well as replicate animals) are traded as a commodity - no consideration for their feelings Use of pronouns - "she's a replicate" "how can it not know what it is?" Search lights everywhere - gives the impression of constant impression of monitoring Close up shot of Rachel and Decker's profiles - shows the parallels between them.

Shot switches to other side emphasizing they are interchangeable and equal. Decker's retirement of Chore Cut shot to Decker's face, emphasis loss of humanity Slow motion low angle shot of her when she dies Slow motion shot of her dying She's shot among humans but is rested among the mannequins - shows that she is less human Transparent poncho - costuming Goes straight to buy alcohol to deal with it. When Batty kills Tersely it is out of passion, Declared retires replicates because it's his job 0 shows that the replicates have more emotion than the humans. More human than human" When Roy and Declared have their final battle, the camera shows downwards shots at Declared and upwards shots and Roy, emphasizing the Context: Thesis: Notions of humanity are constructed according to the key values of the Monnet, therefore an understanding of context allows the reader to reconcile their perception of the text's meaning to that of the composer and discern a deeper meaning.

Mary Shelley 1818 gothic sci-fi hybrid novel Frankenstein cautions the advancing progress of science of the time, Ridley Scott's 1982 dystopia thriller Blade Runner portrays the end result of what Shelley forwarded.

Both texts issue a Promethean warning of the impacts of man trying to usurp the role of God with no consideration for the consequences to the natural and human environments, portrayed using the popular textual medium of the period. Paragraph 1: unrestrained nature of the scientific developments of the time, and the scientist's lack of apparent consideration for the possibilities of divine retribution or ethical consequences. Expressed in the Gothic style – concern with the mysterious, the horrific, the supernatural and mortality, industrial revolution time.

Lamina novel – first of its kind to directly express concern for the impacts of scientific development Shelley based the novel on Galvanism. “Life and death appeared to me ideal bounds through which I should first break and pour a torrent of light into this dark world” – analogy of “pouring light” is a play on the Enlightenment, proving that the Victor is among the Enlightenment scientists whose obsession with knowledge and reason the Romantics so vehemently opposed therefore it is a precursor to the sci-fi genre. Sublime and magnificent scenes afforded me the greatest consolation that I was capable of receiving.” Conceived on a sublimated natural background in the Romantic style nature becomes symbolic of human nature and is a reminder of what is at stake (reminiscent of Romantic poets Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron) An understanding of Shelley influences allows the reader to perceive that the targets of Shelley warning of the future are the scientists of the Enlightenment period.

Paragraph 2: Blunderer: Fast forward 200 years and Scott imagines a world in which corporate multinationals have succeeded in their pursuit of economic and social power. Contrasted by the never-ending urban decay is the Amman-style temple that houses Tersely the “ God of bohemianism” – responsible for the human like species who are traded like a commodity. Portrays the end result of ecocide of early sass, Reagan era’s overcompensation and depletion of natural resources.

Scott employs miss en scene: strategic placement of billboards promoting popular consumer culture, appealing to the highly ‘ assigned’ society, loudspeaker (reminiscent of Muslim call to prayer) 0 essentially consumerism has become religion and marketing the new scripture. Panoramic shot of post-apocalyptic LA 0 devoid of nature and natural light, ominous non-dietetic sound, lightning and flames = hell Thus an understanding of Coot’s influences allows the reader to understand the complex message behind Coot’s setting.

Paragraph 3: In their respective texts the composers display a concern for the inhuman and unethical nature of attempting to usurp the role of God without consideration for consequences from different perspectives. “ No one can conceive the variety of feelings that bore be on, like a hurricane, in the enthusiasm of success” 0 in the Romantic style Shelley uses a simile to compare Frankincense to an unstoppable natural disaster, implying the recklessness of his occupation. “ I entered with the greatest diligence into the philosopher’s stone and the elixir of life. 0 Frankincense from the outset sought the power of life, a power only boomtowns to God at the time.

"Commerce is our goal here at Tersely" low angle shot, Trestle's greased back hair shines, delivered in a monotone portraying a typical businessman 0 reflective of the pure profiteering rhetoric of manufacturers and corporate heads. Symbolism of Trestle's glasses 0 his short-sightedness, doesn't reflect on the implications of the four year life span given to replicates. Influence: Silent Spring 1961 by Rachel Carson starting the environmental revolution, Coot's concern for inbuilt obsolescence adding to excessive waste.

The contextual influences allow the audience to understand the warning that an obsession with science and consequent ignoring of moral responsibilities causes a desalination to human values. A comparison of human and monster (or in Blunderer's case, human and commodity) suggests Cartesian theory, forcing the audience to question whether to have humanity requires being human.

Mirrored a God damn one man killing machine" 0 congratulatory tone and denunciation of God shows Decker's abandonment of any last morsel of spirituality as well as his desalination to remorse and empathy.

The Romantic's celebrated an appreciation of nature and sensuality, so Frankincense's ultimate loss of humanity is symbolized by his lamentation that he became "insensible to the charms of nature". Because she's confined to a written form, Shelley uses an epistolary structure for the novel to allow the reader to directly compare the narrative voice of Frankincense and the creature 0 there is no discernible difference, thus implying that Frankincense's humanity has been degraded to a level equal to that of the of the "monster" he so eagerly denounces.

At the crux of Coot's warning is the fear that the obsession with consumerism will escalate to a point where humans are essentially traded as a commodity. Scott employs parallelism to draw the audience's perception that the humans and replicates have equal humanity. Parallel shot Parallel dialogue: " Do you love me? " " I love you.

" " Do you trust me? " " I trust you" proves that Rachel, a replicate, is equal to Declared, a human, at showing humanism. Scott goes one step further than Shelley, implying that humans will become reliant on technology. The VS. test machine appears to breathe showing that it is equal in humanity.

Textual form Introduction: The use of textual form is a principle element in the composition of a text because it influences the way in which the audience constructs their personal response to the values presented. In Mary Shelley's sci-fi-gothic hybrid Frankenstein ND Riddle Coot's 1982 dystopian thriller Bladerunner, both composers exploit the conventions of the popular textual forms of their time in order to make the audience question their views on what it is to play God and overthrow natural order, and consider whether or not to have humanity requires being human.

Where Scott is able to use visual cinema techniques, Shelley employs vivid linguistic imagery and rhetorical devices, both true to styles of their context in order to assert maximum impact on the contemporary audience.

Paragraph 1: Shelley employs the popular rhetorical devices of her chosen textual medium to manipulate and reconcile the audience's perceived meaning to her own. Deeply rooted in the Gothic genre - concerned with horror, mystery, mortality and the supernatural emphasized through melodramatic

style. " Oh! No mortal could support the horror of such countenance! Lamina novel: first of its kind to express direct concern for the scientific developments of the time - based on galvanism.

" life and death appeared to me ideal bounds which I should break through and pour a torrent of light into this world" - the analogy of " pouring light" is a play on the Enlightenment 0 proof of Shelley concerns or the scientists trying to play God, thus a pre-cursor to the science fiction genre. In the Romantic style Shelley canvasses the story on a sublimated natural backdrop setting it in a real place Shelley adds verisimilitude Paragraph 2: Coot's manipulation of meaning through the conventions of cinema.

Contrast of Trestle's Gujarat against urban decay indicative of god like status - " god of bohemianism" responsible for the human like species traded as a commodity Miss en scene - strategically placed billboards advertising popular culture, neon signs are the only form of light in the perpetual darkness, sounds of the city drowned out by beakers (reminiscent of call to prayer in Muslim countries) 0 consumerism has become religion and marketing the new religious scripture.

Panoramic shot and ominous non-dietetic sound + lightning and flames = hell 0 highly realistic visualization implies the real possibility Paragraph 3: manipulation of characterization to emphasis the inhuman and unethical nature of the creators who egotistically aim to overthrow natural order with no regard for the consequences of divine retribution or ethical questions. No one can conceive the variety of feelings which bore me on, like a hurricane, in the enthusiasm of success" - likening his obsessive pursuit to a natural

disaster emphasis the recklessness - Shelley characterizes using dialogue. "Commerce is our goal here at Trollope" - representative of the profiteering corporations who show no regard for the environment - the four year life span of the replicates symbolisms 'inbuilt obsolescence' Scott uses costuming to prove his short-sightedness - he wears big glasses.

Paragraph 4: use of textual form to impart Cartesian theory - making the audience question whether or not they believe to have humanity requires being human Shelley uses the epistolary structure popular of her context to allow direct interaction between the narrative voice of the creature and Dr Frankenstein, using their language and mannerisms as an indicator of their humanity. No discernible difference, creature draws equal comfort from nature that humans do, therefore the audience perceives that Frankenstein's humanity is equal to that of the "monster" he so eagerly denounces.

True to the tech noir genre, Scott uses ambiguous lighting to further impair the audience's ability to determine who is human and who is a replicate. Coot's use of parallelism Parallel dialogue - shows that Rachel is equally capable of displaying humanism Scott takes it one step further, implying that humans dependency on technology and corporate advertising telling them what to think that they will be incapable of discerning human from replicate - the VS. test for replicable requires a machine which appears to breathe.

How does Coot's Blade Runner sustain interest in the values represented in M's Frankenstein. 1. Passion for knowledge/science 2. Passion for success 3. Passion of composers - offering cautionary tales about the same issues.

Shelley: - Romantic ideal of nature and its power and beauty Also challenges pantheism - hero that man, God, nature were in harmony.

Scott: - End result of what Shelley predicted grim pictures throughout (opening scene) Values and Textual Form question certain values introduced by the respective composer.