

PAPER #2: CRITICAL COMPARISON (20%)

Due Monday 4/8

For your second paper, you will write a 1100 word (minimum) critical review of an adaptation of *Frankenstein*. Compare and contrast both versions of the story, and argue whether the newer version is a good adaptation of the original work.

After we finish reading *Frankenstein* in class, choose a film or stage adaptation to compare/contrast with the book.

- NOTE: If you find an adaptation of *Frankenstein* that is in a different medium other than film or theater, such as television, graphic novels, video games, etc., then you are free to do that. But please avoid silly cartoons that merely draw inspiration from *Frankenstein*, like Scooby Doo or Hotel Transylvania, as those don't generally make for good papers.
- The adaptation you choose can be either old or recent. It can be a serious take on the story, like Kenneth Branagh's *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (1994), or a more comedic film, like Mel Brooks's *Young Frankenstein* (1974). It can also be a somewhat loose adaptation or reinterpretation, like Tim Burton's *Frankenweenie* (2012).

Once you have chosen your adaptation, analyze it and write a persuasive essay arguing whether or not the adaptation is a good representation of the original story.

- Your whole paper should be centered around your **claim**, which should be a statement about the quality of this adaptation: is it a good or bad adaptation? Is it faithful to the original story? Does it improve upon the story, or does it change it in negative ways?
- Support your claim with **evidence** and **reasoning**.
 - Somewhere in your paper, you must include a *specific definition* about what you think makes something a good adaptation.
 - Offer detailed examples as evidence to support why you feel it is a good adaptation or not. Look at elements such as the writing, the acting, the visual designs, the music, the editing, etc. How well does the adaptation represent the original book's characters, plot, themes and overall message?
 - Consider how well this adaptation makes use of its medium. Every medium has its own advantages and disadvantages, so how does this adaptation make use of its advantages and/or overcome its disadvantages? For example, books have the advantage of being able to give detailed descriptions of a character's thoughts, while films have the advantage of visual language such as facial expressions, lighting, camera shots and clever editing. So how well does the movie use its unique visual tools to translate the book's descriptions onto the screen?
 - It's tempting to just point out changes and say, "They changed it, so it's bad." But don't do that. *Analyze* the changes they made and argue *why* those changes were good or bad, necessary or unnecessary, etc. Focus on differences that matter, not minor nitpicks.
- Consider possible **counterarguments** and address them with a solid **rebuttal**.

- For example, say you feel that the film made a change that was harmful to the story. Someone who disagrees with you might argue that this change was necessary due to time constraints, and you might respond to this person by explaining why you feel the thing that was changed is essential enough to the story that they should have made time to work it in.
- Feel free to concede that some counterarguments raise valid points, but make sure you stick by your original claim no matter what. For example, you could admit that maybe the film *does* have some good qualities, but that still doesn't make it a good adaptation; or you could admit that the film *does* have a few significant flaws, but overall it still represents the story well.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

- 1100 words (minimum): Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced
- Include an MLA header on the first page, and page numbers in the top right corner
- Your paper should have a clear **thesis statement** somewhere near the beginning, which should state your overall claim (whether or not the work is a good adaptation of the original book).
- **Define your terms** - specifically, define what you feel makes a "good adaptation."
- Back up your claim with evidence, reasoning, and detailed analysis of the work. Use **specific details and quotes** from both the adaptation *and* the original novel to support your argument.
- Cite all quotes using MLA format. Include a properly formatted Works Cited Page at the end. (NOTE: the Works Cited page must have at least two works listed on it: the adaptation and the original source. You can also bring in other sources such as movie reviews, if you wish.)
- **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.** If you use an author's exact words, you must put them in quotation marks and cite your source. Otherwise, you must paraphrase.

DUE DATE:

- You must submit **both an online and hard copy of your final paper** by **Monday 4/8**.
 - The online copy helps me check your originality and word count. You will submit it online through the Turnitin.com assignment link. The hard copy is what I will actually mark up. If you aren't going to be in class on the day it's due, you still must make sure I get a copy of your paper on time (either physical or electronic). Anyone turning in a paper hours after class is over will have late points deducted. After midnight, I will not accept any papers at all, and you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment.

OTHER DUE DATES (OPTIONAL):

- You may email an electronic copy of your rough draft any time. However, I will not look at any rough drafts sent to me less than 24 hours before the final due date. And depending on the load of rough drafts I receive, I can't guarantee I will get around to looking at yours -- so send it early, if you really want my feedback!
- If you are dissatisfied with your grade, you may revise your paper again and turn it in to me any time before the end of the semester (5/12). You will also need to give me back the original final draft that I marked up, so that I can compare the two. How much work you put into revising your paper and following my comments will determine how much your grade on the paper improves.