

Worksheet 4 – Society

Review: Lecture 3 Medicine

In the previous lecture of the unit, Prof. Nick Groom mentions two characters from Dracula who are the subject of medical experimentation – one undergoes blood transfusions and the other psychiatric therapy. Who are they?

Recall: Lecture 4

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. Which of these is NOT one of the major social changes Prof. Nick Grooms mentions at the beginning of the lecture?
 - a) The rise of mass consumer culture
 - b) Industrialisation
 - c) Expansion of the British empire
 - d) Growing interest in psychiatry
2. Which other famous 19th century novel explored the idea of ‘degeneration’?
 - a) Wuthering Heights
 - b) Frankenstein
 - c) The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
 - d) Northanger Abbey
3. Who suggested that criminality was an inherited trait and could be identified by physical defects?
 - a) Cesare Lombroso
 - b) Eugen Bleuler
 - c) Emil Kraepelin
 - d) Adolf Meyer

Analysis

4. In the lecture Prof. Nick Groom mentions the detailed descriptions of Dracula’s physical appearance in the novel. Look at this extract from Chapter 2 and answer the following question: how does Stoker’s description of Dracula’s physical appearance create terror in the reader? Write your answer as a PEE/PEA paragraph and try and include at least 3 quotations.

His face was a strong, a very strong, aquiline, with high bridge of the thin nose and peculiarly arched nostrils, with lofty domed forehead, and hair growing scantily round the temples but profusely elsewhere. His eyebrows were very massive, almost meeting over the nose, and with bushy hair that seemed to curl in its own profusion. The mouth, so far as I could see it under the heavy moustache, was fixed and rather cruel-looking, with peculiarly sharp white teeth. These protruded over the lips, whose remarkable ruddiness showed astonishing vitality in a man of his years. For the rest, his ears were pale, and at the tops extremely pointed. The chin was broad and strong, and the cheeks firm though thin. The general effect was one of extraordinary pallor.

Hitherto I had noticed the backs of his hands as they lay on his knees in the firelight, and they had seemed rather white and fine. But seeing them now close to me, I could not but notice that they were rather coarse, broad, with squat fingers. Strange to say, there were hairs in the centre of the palm. The nails were long and fine, and cut to a sharp point. As the Count leaned over me and his hands touched me, I could not repress a shudder. It may have been that his breath was rank, but a horrible feeling of nausea came over me, which, do what I would, I could not conceal.

Evaluation

5. In the lecture (2:40) Prof. Nick Groom mentions society's anxieties about the political rise of women. Using your own research, create a one page fact-file about the concept of the 'New Woman', considering why this would have been seen as a threat to patriarchal Victorian society. Use the following sources to help you with your research:

Source 1: The New Woman Fiction – The Victorian Web:

<https://victorianweb.org/gender/diniejko1.html>

Source 2: Daughters of Decadence - The British Library:

<https://victorianweb.org/gender/diniejko1.html>

Challenge:

- To what extent do you believe that Mina or Lucy conform to this idea of the 'New Woman'? Are they subversive characters, or do they uphold the status quo? Bullet point lists of reasons for and against them being a 'New Woman'.

Glossary

- **Panorama** – A full or wide view of something.
e.g. The tower offers a wonderful panorama of Vienna.
- **Degeneration** – The process by which something declines or deteriorates; the state of getting worse rather than better.
e.g. Too much grazing has caused serious degeneration of grassland.
- **Exultant** – Triumphant; happy.
e.g. The victorious leader waved to the exultant crowds.
- **Communion** – The sharing of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially on a mental or spiritual level; it can also refer to the service of Christian worship at which bread and wine are consecrated and shared i.e. Holy Communion.
e.g. Prayer is a form of communion with God.