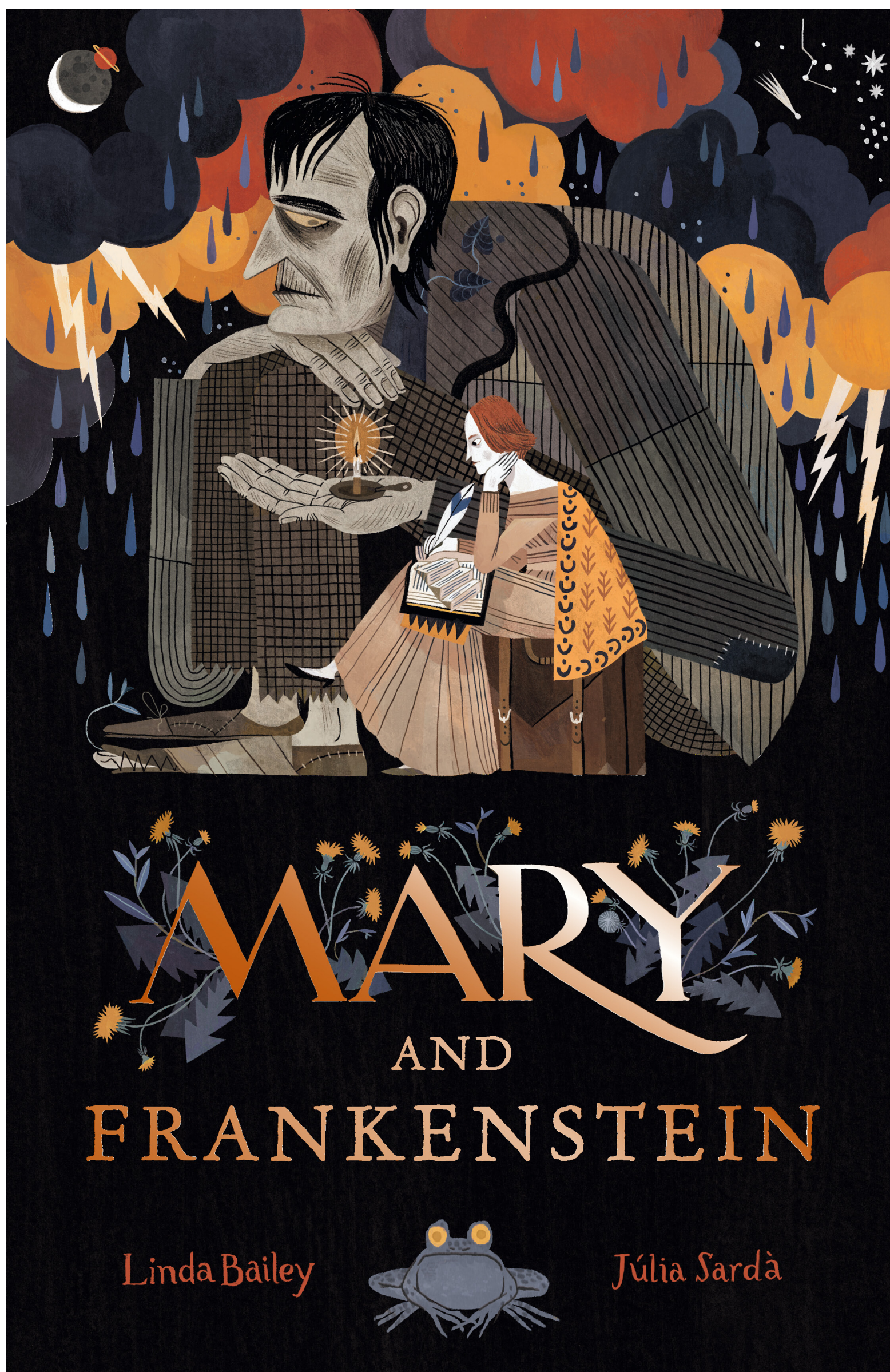


CILIP KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST 2020 SHADOWING RESOURCES



CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

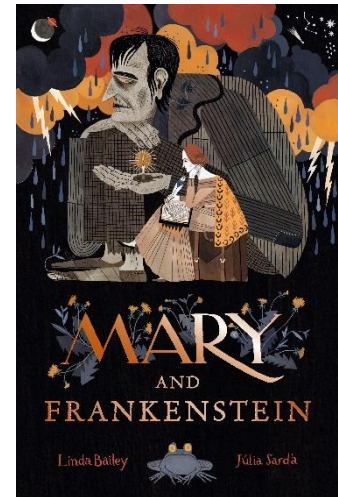
VISUAL LITERACY NOTES

Title: Mary and Frankenstein

Illustrator: **Júlia Sardà**

Author: Linda Bailey

Publisher: Andersen Press



Shadowers' Views

Shadowing the Kate Greenaway shortlist requires you to look very carefully at artwork in order to form a judgment about it. The word **view** can refer to both what can you see, and to your opinions. You are looking for a book that 'creates an outstanding reading experience through illustration'.

First look

'Sometimes a story starts with a dream.'

Many people ask authors where they get their ideas. *Mary and Frankenstein* is the story of how a writer got ideas and wrote one of the most famous books in the world. It is a true story – nonfiction. While the original story of *Frankenstein* written by Mary Shelley was fiction. Start exploring the artwork by looking at the front cover. Note the colours, the weather and the two characters. Can you see stars, flowers and a frog? Share the whole book with the shadowers looking at all the images. What are their initial impressions?

Consider all the visual aspects of the book i.e. end papers, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' to the story contribute to the overall impact of the book?

Look again

The first things we learn about Mary are that she dreams a lot and is badly behaved. Mary was born at a time of ground-breaking changes in the spheres of science, medicine and the arts but few people understood or even considered the emotional needs of girls.

Look at pictures of Mary as a child: does she look happy? Can you understand why she may be unhappy or frustrated?

Look at the flowers by her mother's grave and on a pot in her bedroom.

Mary always has books around her. Look for interesting details in the illustrations on each page.



Many writers and philosophers visited Mary's home as guests of her father. She listened to all their discussions. Turn to the Cast of Characters at the start of the book. Although they all look a bit sinister, of those six characters, only one is fictitious - THE MONSTER – the rest are friends and Mary's step-sister. At 18 years old, Mary is the youngest.

Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to introduce tasks which require imaginative responses. Reading nonfiction can inspire curiosity and empathy. The following research activities suggestions may help shadowers engage with the book.



Mary and Frankenstein is a book about how Mary Shelley became a writer. Can you work out what experiences influenced her future writing as she grew up?

Growing up

Mary's mother died just after Mary was born. Her name was Mary Wollstonecraft. She is admired as one of the first women to advocate for women's rights. Having read Wollstonecraft's book, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Mary knew that women are equal to men.

Dreaming

Most writers dream. Dreams can happen while asleep or awake; they can be pleasant or frightening; or you can have dreams about your aims in life. Mary had a very active imagination. Did she have all three sorts of dream? Look at the pictures of the friends telling ghost stories. How does the artist, Júlia Sardà, show powerful imaginations at work?



Frankenstein at the movies



Most people recognise the monster because of a film made in 1931. The actor, Boris Karloff, played the monster. His image has influenced other productions on stage, film or TV programmes. Have you watched *The Munsters*?

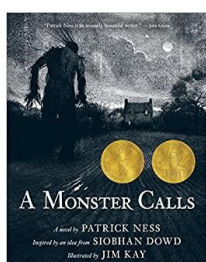


Research

On 1 January 1818, when Mary was 20 years old, 500 copies of *Frankenstein* were published. By 1851 over 7000 copies had been sold. It is still selling thousands of copies every year.

In the 1800s, medical science was advancing fast, but there was no CPR or transplants. There were some experiments using an electric shock to reanimate small animals (e.g. frogs). Corpses were stolen by 'body snatchers' for medical research. To find out more about medical connections to Frankenstein, visit: <https://stanmed.stanford.edu/2018winter/why-issues-raised-in-Frankenstein-still-matter-200-years-later.html> (NB: This article is not for primary aged readers or the faint hearted!)

Read more



If you have enjoyed reading *Mary and Frankenstein* why not try the 2012 Kate Greenaway winner *A Monster Calls*, this was the first book to win both the Carnegie and the Kate Greenaway Medals and was illustrated by Jim Kay and written by Patrick Ness.

FURTHER THINKING

CILIP works in partnership with Amnesty International and Inclusive Minds to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of human rights, inclusion and representation in children's literature. The discussion points below are intended to further stimulate reader's thinking on the themes explored in the shortlisted books.

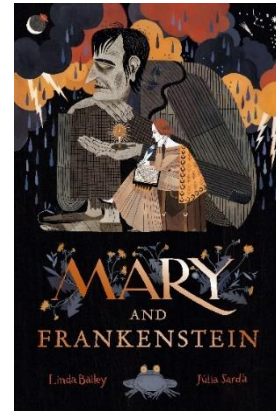
CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020

Title: **Mary and Frankenstein**

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Discussing human rights in this story:

Right to family; Right to create and enjoy art; Freedom of thought and belief; Freedom of expression; Freedom of expression; Women's rights.

- Who should have been responsible for ensuring that Mary was safe and felt listened to?
- Who should make decisions about where we live and who we live with?
- What assumptions about girls and women are made? Who makes these assumptions?



Discussing inclusion and representation in this story:

- Mary was inspired to be a writer by her mother. What does this tell us about the importance of role models?
- Consider how the characters are labelled (Mary as a 'Big Problem' and Shelley as a 'Brilliant young poet'). How did the gender expectations of the time (and now) impact how they were viewed? Consider whether the labels might have been different if Mary had been male and Shelley female?
- How do you think historical and/or factual context to books can impact who is being represented? Consider how illustrators can be inclusive and representative when working with historical works.



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**TEACHING NOTES FROM CLPE
COMING SOON**



CENTRE FOR **LITERACY**
IN PRIMARY EDUCATION