

Sexuality- fear of

- By the time Dracula was written, the emergence of the new woman had happened- contextually, attitudes had partially progressed over the century, though not properly.
- New woman is a bid for sexual and emotional freedom for women.
- Lucy's version of the new woman is punished/feared.
- Frankenstein- absence of female sexuality in his life as he's scared of it.
- Timeline from 1818-1890s from Frank to Drac. Was there really a development in attitudes to sexuality?
- Shelley was very much a progressive female- from a progressive family, and she was sexually free with Percy Shelley. She obviously wasn't worried about reputation.
- Shelley's fear of pregnancy- her mother died giving birth, her child died, so that kinda links.
- Afraid of losing reputation from being sexually free (especially for women).
- Fear of disease stemming from sex. (AIDS, Herpes etc)
- There probably wasn't much of a society progression regarding sexuality over these years.

Isolation

- Shelley isolated from her family and society due to her eloping with Percy Shelley
- Shelley isolated through trauma too- she couldn't talk with others about the death of her child- no support network
- Locked doors and journeys into a dark nature, taboo. Harker writes about all this but can't share it with anyone so he's isolated
- CONTRAST- communication is the way to cure stuff- the men are very vocal about their problems with each other.
- City- isolation in the city- alienating effect of the city- people living close together but not knowing each other.
- Female characters often disempowered by being isolated

Nature

- Coleridge wanting kids to grow up in nature
- Corruption due to education getting in the way of our natural relationship with god/nature. Tuning out due to civilisation
- Ind. Rev taking over nature. Frankenstein had more of a fear of it, whilst Dracula has started to experience some of the benefits of it, so less condemning here.
- Emotion and nature- eg. in Frank, Nature associated with females, Victor is male and deviates from nature. So very much a clash between male power and nature's power.
- Rousseau- Society as corrupting influence to humanity
- The idea of nature being sublime, perhaps representing god, or god's work, and therefore Science intruding nature could be seen as science replacing God, leading to a more secular society.
- Dracula- the storm emphasises the power of nature, though questionably caused by Drac. himself and manipulated by him, presenting nature as weak or degrading it.