

MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

Title: FRANKENSTEIN
Author: Mary V. Shelley
Date of Publication: January 1, 1818
Genre: Gothic Fiction

Biographical Info. About the Author

Mary Shelley was an English novelist, short story writer, dramatist, essayist, biographer, and travel writer. She was born August 30, 1797, in London, England.

Historical information abt the period of publication

- The treaty of Mandeswar brings to an end.
- Charles XIV of Sweden-Norway became crowned king of Sweden
- The British Parliament is dissolved
- First Seminole War

Characteristics of the Genre

Gloomy, decaying setting; supernatural beings or monsters; mysteriousness, isolation; destruction; terror

Plot Summary

Dr. Frankenstein is a brilliant scientist, who is obsessed with the idea of gaining control over life and death, refusing the limits of contemporary science. He carries out his research alone and unaided until he eventually succeeds in bringing to life a monster he has created out of the organs of dead men. However, even Frankenstein is frightened when he sees the fruit of his insane fantasy. The monster escapes from the laboratory and appears some time later in the Swiss Alps, where he is rejected by all the men that he encounters, not so much for his ugliness as for his clearly non-human features. His need to communicate with others is continually frustrated and anger towards all mankind builds up leading to a tragic climax in his killing of Frankenstein's best friend, his little brother and his wife. The monster takes refuge at the North Pole knowing that only there, in a place of total desolation he will kill no more.

Describe The Author's style

Examples

For Shelley's language, it's rich and elevated and fits the Romantic genre. She uses enough imagery for the audience to frighten themselves. Her creative narrative POV is so concise that many readers tend to forget that Robert Walton is the true singular narrator.

She uses a frame narrative: a story within a story (within a story)
She describes Frankenstein as 8ft tall and monstrous and ~~was~~ with made with various dead body parts.

Quotation	Significance
"No human being could have passed a happier childhood than myself."	This is very much foreshadowing to the rest of the book because during the book we know that the rest of his life is filled with misery and turmoil
"Darkness had no effect upon my fancy; and a church yard was to me merely the receptacle of bodies deprived of life."	This can be seen as Victor's first steps into insanity while creating his first creature. He sees things differently from the others around him and there is a much more sinister meaning to the things in his life
"How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavored to form?"	At this moment, Victor realized the horrific consequences of his actions and he is overcome by fear of his new creation.
"I am malicious, because I am miserable"	The creature is explaining why he is so evil. He says that he is not evil by choice but that he is evil because of treatment.

Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
Victor Frankenstein	main protagonist Oldest son of Alphonse and Caroline Beaufort Frankenstein. doctor/chemist creator of the monster	He was the one who created the monster and then abandoned it. He was responsible for the monster's welfare and failed to realize the consequences that the monster has which he made, has brought to mankind.	genius irresponsible stubborn ambitious
The Creature	a frightened creature who does not know who he is or what he is.	The monster served as a lesson to Frankenstein and how he shouldn't have let ambitions get to him.	8 ft tall hideous actually clever has super-human strength sensitive
Robert Walton	Arctic seafarer whose letters open and close Frankenstein. He hears Victor's story	He opens and closes the story book. He helps Frankenstein up off the ice and helps nurse him back to health.	adventurous easily scared
Henry Clerval	Victor's best friend scientist	He nurses Victor back to health in Ingolstadt.	cheerful loyal

Setting

Geneva, Switzerland
 18th Century
 Captain Walton's ship
 University at Ingolstadt
 Alps
 France

Significance of Opening Scene

The opening scene of the novel is narrated by Robert Walton, and is in the form of a letter to his sister Margaret. The connections between his feelings regarding his mission and Frankenstein's feelings toward the creation of the monster are clear. It is full of foreshadowing and connections between Robert Walton and his quest and Frankenstein and his ventures.

Summary

The monster, electricity, lightning, weather, isolation.

After the monster briefly summarizes his actions and his selfish inadequacy as protector of Mankind, he gives Walton one last piece of advice before he takes his last breath: "seek happiness in tranquility and avoid ambition, even if it be only the apparently innocent one of distinguishing yourself in science and discoveries. This line could be seen as a 'moral' of the whole story: 'Don't let your ambitions get the best of you'."

1990 - choose a novel or play that depicts a conflict between a parent (or parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the causes of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary.

Possible Themes

Treatment of the poor and uneducated; use of knowledge for good or evil purposes; invasion of tech. into modern life; Nature vs. Nurture; danger of knowledge; abandonment; life & death; illusion and reality; ignorance is bliss

MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

Title: The Importance of Being Earnest
 Author: Oscar Wilde
 Date of Publication: 1895
 Genre: Comedy / Farce

biographical info about the author:

- born October 16 (1854)
- known for contributions to Aestheticism movement

Historical information about the period of publication:

This play was written and produced during the Victorian Era, lasting from 1837-1901, under the reign of Queen Victoria. The era was marked with the rise of romanticism and heavy emphasis placed upon social status, manners, and how one is perceived by society.

~~At the height of his success...~~
~~...the manner of...~~

- A gay homosexual man - the father of his lover had him imprisoned bc he was a sodomite.
- stayed in jail for 2 yrs n died Nov. 30 1900 not long after being released

Characteristics of the genre:

- positive ending
- main emphasis on humor
- exaggerated characteristics

Plot summary:

~~Jack & John~~ John (Jack) Worthing

Two bachelors, John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff create alter egos named Ernest to escape their daily lives. They both try to win the hearts of Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew, who claim to only love men named Ernest. The men struggle to keep up the deception and fall into misadventures.

Describe the authors style

- witty yet easy to read
- Mocked Victorian notions of moral seriousness.
- clever, sly, ~~deep~~ self deprecating irony.

An example that demonstrates that style:

"The truth is rarely pure and never simple"

Quotation

Significance

Unpleasantly quotes

Algernon: "Really, if the lower orders don't set us a good example, what on earth is the use of them? They seem, as a class, to have absolutely no sense of moral responsibility."

High lights Algernons hypocrisy, he believes that the higher class is corrupt but it is the lower class responsibility to handle it.

Jack: "I hate people who are not serious about meals. It is so shallow of them"

Demonstrates Oscar Wilde's wit and humor. Also highlights the upper class gluttony and decadence.

Lady Bracknell: "To be born, or at any rate bred, in a hand-bag, whether it had handles or not, seems to display a contempt for the ordinary decencies of family life"

Demonstrates how important ones social status and blood line plays into their role in society at this time

Setting

London -

Victorian England

Significance of opening scene:

In the opening scene Oscar Wilde sets up the tone of comedy and mischief and pokes fun ~~at the society~~ at society.

Symbols:

Ernest and Bunbury - symbolize empty promises or deceit of the Victorian Era

The handbag in the cloakroom that Jack was bound in - theme of disguise

Food - symbolizes excess, or overindulgence.

Significance of closing scene:

"I've now realized for the first time in my life the vital importance of Being Earnest" this closing line gives the reader many questions.
"Has he learned to live honestly?"

Old AP Questions:

"Many plays and novels use contrasting places (for example, two countries, two cities, or towns etc) to represent opposed forces or ideas that are central to the meaning of the work. Choose a novel or play that contrast two such places. Write an essay explaining how the places differ, what each place represents, and how their contrast contributes to the meaning of the work."

Possible themes:

- ~~morality~~ morality & the constraints it imposes on society
- Lies & Deceit
- Respect & Reputation
- Society & Class
- Foolishness & Folly
- Love

Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
Jack/John/"Ernest"	protagonist - creates the fake brother "Ernest". In love w/ Gwen Dolan (Algy's cousin). bro	protagonist Jack is used to represent the idea of leading a double life. He also is used to explore attitudes on rituals of courtship and marriage.	dishonest kind of a fool Spontaneous coward careless
Gwen Dolan ↑	love interest of Jack → wants a man named Ernest	Gwen is used to represent the new woman. She is confident and at home in the big city who appreciates appearances	Sophisticated pretentious
(Cousins) ↓			
Algyon	Secondary hero - friend of Jack. Also lives a sort of double life - uses the excuse of a friend "Bunbury" to get out of things. In love with Cecily	He represents wit and aestheticism. He shows how few Victorians go to escape the stiff hold of society	Charming witty EXTRA irresponsible harassive careless reckless
Cecily	Jack's ward, obsessed w/ the name Ernest too. Had a whole imaginary relationship with "Ernest"	She represents the romantic ideals that hold Victorian society. She lives in the country and dreams of a long romantic gestures.	naive romantic

MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

Biographical info about the author

Title: As I Lay Dying
 Author: William Faulkner
 Date of Publication: 1930
 Genre: Modern Literature/Southern Gothic

- Born in New Albany, Mississippi, in 1897.
- Much of his early work was poetry, but became famous for his novels set in the American south.
- Won Nobel Prize for Literature in 1949.
- Won two Pulitzers and two National Book Awards
- Died July 6, 1962

Historical info about the period of publication

This story was based in the rural American south in 1930. This was at the beginning of The Great Depression, and it was a time of strict racial segregation (especially in the south/rural south).

Became prevalent in early 19th century. Includes irrational, horrific, and transgressive thoughts, desires, and impulses, grotesque characters, dark humor, and an angst-ridden sense of alienation.

Characteristics of genre

Plot Summary

The story is about the Bundren family who live on their farm in Yoknapatawpha County, Mississippi. They are a very poor family, and the matriarch, Addie Bundren, is dying. The family wants to respect Addie's dying wish to be buried in a town called Jefferson, so they are gearing up for a journey. Cash, the oldest son/child makes a coffin. Anse, the dumb family father, sends his two sons Darl and Jewel, on a lumber shipping job to get the family a little extra money. They are forced to turn back midtrip because of an accident, but Addie has already died. Dewey Dell, the only daughter of the family, is secretly pregnant. She seeks an abortion. Vardaman, the youngest child, is traumatized by his mother's death, and does not fully understand it. The family starts their journey, but it's difficult. A storm has washed away all bridges, so the family stays the night at a farm owned by the family named the Samsons. The family finds a place to cross the river, and it goes terribly. The mules drown, Cash's leg is broken and he almost drowns, and ~~the~~ the coffin gets washed down-stream, but Jewel saves it before it gets far. The family rests at Armstid's farm. Anse sells ~~the~~ Jewel's horses to buy new mules. The family sets off. In Mottson, Dewey Dell tries to get an abortion but fails, and they buy cement to make a cast for Cash's leg. The Bundrens rest at the Gillespie farm, and Darl sets fire to the barn where the coffin is, and Jewel saves the coffin, but the barn burns down. The next day the family gets to Jefferson and bury Addie. Darl is taken to a mental institution because of arrangements made by his family. Peabody does the best he can to fix up Cash's leg. Dewey Dell is duped into sex for a phony abortion treatment. Anse buys a new set of teeth and immediately finds a new wife. The family sets off to head home.

Describe the author's style

Example that demonstrates that style

Faulkner uses stream-of-consciousness all throughout the book. He also gives long, in-depth descriptions of characters to develop the plot and establish depth of characters.

At one point in the story, Cora says, "Someone comes through the hall. It is Darl." It would be much cleaner-cut to say "Darl comes through the hall", but that is not the point. Whatever goes through the character's head, is written down.

Quotation

Significance

Memorable quotes

- My mother is a fish (Vardaman)

→ This shows how Vardaman did not grasp his mother's death.

- I feel like a wet seed wild in the hot blind earth.

→ The characters sometimes feel strangled by their situation, but sometimes don't realize it.

- It takes two people to make you, and one people to die. That's how the world is going to end. (Darl)

→ The story has a shallow and dim view of death, and this quote showcases it.

- The reason for living was to get ready to stay dead a long time. (Addie)

→ This quote also refers to death in a shallow way. It's trying to be justified.

- People to whom sin is just a matter of words, to them salvation is just words too.

→ This quote basically says that sin and morals are relative. It all depends on the person.

- Memory believes before knowing remembers.

→ One of the few relatively optimistic quotes.

- If you could just ravel out into time, That would be nice. It would be nice. It would be nice if you could just ravel out into time.

→ The characters aren't happy often, and this quote (in a dumbed down way) shows that.

Setting

Significance of Opening Scene

Rural Mississippi in the 1930's. In a made up county called Yoknapatawpha.

The opening scene is Darl and Jewel running an errand for Tull. ~~The~~ Cash is seen building a coffin which sets the tone of the story.

- Addie's coffin = represents heavy load / burden Addie's death causes

- Fish - Vardaman's mother, his way of trying to conceptualize death

- Horse - Jewel's mother

- Water - Natural world working against Bundrens

Shows Anse getting a new wife and finishes setting the tone for the story.

Shows absurdity of life and death and makes ~~the~~ the Bundren's trip seem pointless.

Chose a character from a novel or play of recognized literary merit and write an essay in which you (a) briefly describe the standards of the fictional society in which the character exists and (b) show how the character is affected by and responds to those standards. In your essay do not merely summarize the plot.

Significance of Closing Scene

Old AP Question

Symbols

Possible Themes

- Life is pointless, it's just an absurd journey
- Death controls life. The living are the only ones who really experience death.
- Words mean nothing unless action is put to them.
- Everyone experiences things in their own personal way.

Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
- Addie	Mother/matriarch	The story revolves around Addie and her current state	bitter, loveless, cold
- Anse	Father/patriarch	Head of the family, leads the rest.	dumb dumb, selfish
- Darl	Second Bundren child/narrator	Most sensitive and articulate child. Has the most chapters.	Sensitive, frustrated, (relatively) articulate
- Jewel	Bastard child/mystery character	Most controversial and is misunderstood character.	Mysterious, independent, proud
- Cash	Eldest child/carpenter	Epitome of patience and selflessness. Debatable Debatably the only stable character.	Patient, consistent, selfless
- Dewey Dell	Only Bundren daughter	Has a hidden pregnancy that complicates plot.	Dumb, occupied, suspicious
- Vardaman	Youngest child	Keeps a level of innocence in the story.	Innocent, lively, confused
- Vernon Tull	Wealthy neighbor	A critic but an unappreciated help to the Bundrens.	Critical, helpful, wealthy
- Cora Tull	Wealthy neighbor	A devoutly religious character	Religious, caring, critical
- Lefe	Dewey Dell's baby's father	Driving force behind Dewey Dell	Indifferent, manipulative
- Whitfield	Local minister	Addie's ironic lover	Hypocritical, stressed, pitiful
- Peabody	Doctor	Ironically not helpful doctor	Critical, overweight

AP English Literature and Composition

MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

Title: twelfth night / what you will
 Author: william shakespeare
 Date of Publication: 1623
 Genre: Comedy

- was the most acclaimed ~~author~~ ^{playwriter} in england
 - was a fav of Queen Elizabeth & King James I

- lived in London, but died in Stratford at age 52

- written to celebrate the 12th night of Christmas (Feast of Epiphany)
- celebrated by switching roles
- written to be performed for Queen Elizabeth
- AKA → a "trans festive" comedy

Comedy: ends happily

historical info ab period of publication!

biographical info ab author!

Characteristics of genre!

- A duke, named Orsino, pines away for his love Olivia. Olivia has lost her bro, and swears off romance, until she meets a servant of Orsino, named Cesario, who Olivia falls in love with! Cesario is a woman who is disguised. The woman who is disguised is named Viola, and she is also under the impression that her brother was killed in the same shipwreck that killed Olivia's brother! Viola works for Orsino, and falls in love with him. Orsino loves Olivia who falls in love with "Cesario" upon meeting "him".

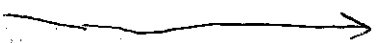
- Olivia uncle, Sir Toby, and his best friend, Sir Andrew Aguecheek are both drunkards, who endlessly try to court Andrew & Olivia

plot summary!

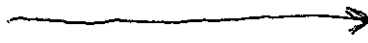
describe author's style

example

Poetic



Musically



"away before me to sweet bed of flowers!
Love thoughts are rich when canopied with bowers."

"O mistress mine, where are you roaming?
O, stay and hear! Your true love's coming,
That can sing both high and low.
Trip no further, pretty sweeting,
Journey ends in lovers' meeting,
Every wise man's son doth know."

Memorable Quotes

Quotation	Significance
If music be the food of love, play on. -Orsino	- Orsino is lovesick, and sets a to romantic theme of the play.
Oh, when mine eyes did see Olivia first, Methought she purged the air of pestilence. That instant was I turn'd into a heart, And my desires, like fell and cruel hounds, E'er since pursue me.	- Orsino's most revealing quote. Reveals his opinions about his feelings, which he refers to "hounds upon him".

Characters!!!

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
Viola	- protagonist, but uses alias Cesario as a cover up & disguise	- Since she's the protagonist, she's the main character that represents the theme of gender identity. (Love Triangle)	- Mysterious - adventurous - funny
Malvolio	- Vain, pompous steward of Olivia's household, Portrayed as the main antagonist.	- Antagonist, shown as ironic by at first being frustrated and serious with no humor but then changes throughout the book.	- serious - no humor - strict
Duke Orsino	- Duke of Illyria, it is a powerful nobleman. In love with Olivia	- Plays part of the love triangle by being in love with Olivia	- kind - trustworthy
Olivia	- Wealthy, beautiful, noble Illyrian lady. - plays the fool / clown	- Centre of various plots by being the comedic & the romantic. Has various suitors & is in the love triangle.	- romantic - sweet - passionate - silly minded
Feste	- plays the fool / clown	- used for comedic relief but is ironic because he is smart and not a fool	- insightful - smart - funny
Sir Toby	- Olivia's "free-loading" uncle & the ring leader of the party animals.	- Dumb Figure	- Careless - Fun - Fat - Jolly
Sir Andrew	- Comedic Relief, stereotypical fool, who is graduated into unwisely duelling with Cesario	- Smart Figure & Comedic Character	- Thin - Tall - Balding - Smart
Marra	- Servant in Olivia's household Has a friendly relationship with Sir Toby & has a witty attitude.	- Jokester Role, by playing jokes on Malvolio, & at the end of the play, she becomes married.	- witty
Sebastian	- Viola's brother who was thought to have died at the boat with Olivia's brother. Shows up at end of play & marries Olivia.	- Part of the love triangle & show suspense & changes shift when he reappears	- handsome - romantic
Fabian	- Someone who watches all the pranks unfold, Servant to Olivia.	- Acts like the reader	- Humorous

Setting

Illyria (fictional setting)

Symbols

- Viola's disguise = identity change
- Maria's love letter = deception to Malvolio
- Olivia's ring = expression of love & pearls

Possible Themes

- Love as a Cause of Suffering
- The Uncertainty of Gender
- Folly of Ambition

Significance of opening scene

- Orsino's soliloquy sets the scene in the opening scene
- Introduces the main characters, that the play will deal with matters of love, emotion, desire, and also rejection.

Significance of closing scene

- Social order becomes restored and all of the characters couple up and some become married, fixing the whole dysfunctional love triangle

Q&A

- Romantic love seems to cause characters in most works to behave foolishly
- Write about a book you have read that relates to the prompt and explain examples of how foolish behavior is brought on by romantic love!

MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

Title: 1984
 Author: George Orwell
 Date of Publication: June 8, 1949
 Genre: dystopian

Biographical Info about the author

- Born as Eric Arthur Blair on June 25, 1903.
- Born in India. Died in England.
- His work is known for his awareness of social injustice and opposition to totalitarianism.

Historical Info about the period of publication

- China became a communist country
- Russia had a Nuclear Bomb which increased tension between East + West.

Characteristics of the genre

- futuristic
- illusion of a perfect society
- societal control

Plot summary

Winston is a citizen of Oceania and works at the Ministry of Truth. He journals his misery when the telescreens are not watching. Winston finds Julia attractive but fears she is a part of the Thought Police until she slips him a love note. Winston and Julia fall in love and believe they are not being watched. Winston is drawn to a Brotherhood. He seeks out the leader, O'Brien. O'Brien ends up being a member of the thought police. Winston and Julia are arrested and find out their room was being watched. O'Brien tortures Winston in Room 101. After facing his deepest fears, Winston tells O'Brien to torture Julia instead. They are later turned back into members of the party and ignore each other as if nothing ever happened.

Describe the author's style

- Orwell uses simple sentences.
- Bleak and Dull to emphasize the point of the novel.

Example that demonstrates this style

"A man stooped to obey. The cockney accent had disappeared; Winston suddenly realized whose voice it was that he had heard a few moments ago on the telescreen."

Quotation

Significance

memorable quotes

"Winston kept his back turned to the telescreen. It was safer, though, as he well knew, even a back can be revealing."

Fear runs so deep in Winston that he fancies that, by turning his back on a telescreen, his rebellious spirit may be sniffed out.

"Until they become conscious they will never rebel, and until after they have rebelled they cannot become conscious."

At reaching a metaphysical paradox, Winston has arrived at a conclusion he does not wish to believe: the proles will never gain the consciousness required for them to effectively rebel.

Setting

Oceania ; 1984

London

Air Strip 2

Significance of opening scene

- Describes Winston as a character. Sets up the storyline.

Significance of closing scene

- Winston has fallen to Big Brother's control just like every other citizen.

Symbols

- Victory products - a form of control
- memory holes - destruction of evidence of memory from the past
- paperweight - the time before Big Brother was in control

Old AP Questions

Write an essay in which you analyze how this tension between outward conformity and inward questioning contributes to the meaning of the work.

Possible Themes

- totalitarianism
- propaganda
- love/sexuality
- independence identity
- music
- loyalty
- poverty vs. wealth
- technology
- language

Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
Winston Smith	Main character	Winston hates the totalitarian control and shows the other side.	normal
Julia	Supporting character	Shows everything Winston wants to be.	sex-crazed
O'Brien	Powerful member of the inner party.	Turns on Winston and leads to Winston's ultimate control.	sneaky
Big Brother	Mysterious character	"God" figure	mysterious
Mr. Charrington	Old man who runs store in prolet district	member of thought police; turns in Winston + Julia	old fart
Goldstein	Leader of Brotherhood	Gives characters hope that there is a bright future.	hopeful

Dave Baker

AP English Literature and Composition

MAJOR WORKS DATA SHEET

Title: The Things They Carried
Author: Tim O'Brien
Date of Publication: 1990
Genre: Historical Fiction

Biographical Information about the author
- Tim O'Brien served in the Vietnam War

Historical Information About the Period of Publication
- Was after the Vietnam War

Characteristics of the Genre
- Puts fictional characters into real, historical events or ~~the~~ situations

Plot Summary

In ~~the~~ The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien tells a series of interconnected stories regarding the Vietnam War. In some of these stories, O'Brien makes certain details up (such as his killing of an enemy soldier) in order to make the reader feel more about the story.

Describe the author's style
The narrator, a fictional version of Tim O'Brien, tells these stories as he is writing them down, however some of the stories aren't true and he uses them to teach lessons

An example that demonstrates that style
- In "Speaking of Courage", Norman Bowler drives around his hometown continually after the war. As he does this thoughts regarding the war, such as inability to save Kiowa emerge, Norman wants to speak about these events but is unable to.
- In "Notes", the following chapter, O'Brien tells of how he came to write the story and that certain aspects of that story aren't true.

Quotation

Memorable Quotes

"He had loved Martha more than his war, and as a consequence Luweller was now dead, and this was something he would have to carry (like a stone in his stomach for the rest of the war)" p. 42

Significance

This quote is significant in that it not only shows that Lt. Cross has a sense of responsibility, but also shows that Cross' obsession with Martha (and by extension his preoccupation with purity) can lead to ~~the~~ death.

Characters

Name	Role in the Story	Significance	Adjectives
Tim O'Brien	Alpha Company soldier, tells most of the story	Shows the soldiers need to talk about war through his story telling	Quiet, unassuming
Jimmy Cross	Alpha Company soldier	His obsession over Martha illustrated an obsession with romance	Responsible, obsessive
Kwona	Alpha Company soldier, dies near the Song Tra Bong	Is the moral center of the group	Moral, kind
Mitchell Sanders	Alpha Company soldier	Is always looking for the moral to a story	Responsible, wise
Norman Bowker	Alpha Company soldier, haunts himself after the war	Illustrates how soldiers wish to talk about war, but can't	Depressed
Rat Kiley	Alpha Company medic, is replaced by Jorgeson	Herbs up certain details in stories to make them seem better	Calm
Azar	Alpha Company soldier	Shows how cruel a person can be in war time	Cruel, cruel
Curt Lemon	Alpha Company soldier, is killed by an explosive	Shows how people wish to portray a false sense of masculinity	Boorish
Henry Dobbins	Alpha Company soldier, carries his girlfriends pants as a good luck charm	Used to show how people like to hold onto things that remind them of good times in their lives	Kind
Dave Jensen	Alpha Company soldier	Shows the cowardice that can be forged during war	Paranoid
Lee Strunk	Alpha Company soldier, dies after his leg is blown off	Shows the cowardice that can be forged during war	Sneaky
Mark Fossie	The boyfriend of Mary Anne Bell	Arranges for Mary Anne to be brought to Vietnam	Wise, loving
Mary Anne Bell	The girlfriend of Mark Fossie	As she assimilates to the war, she goes on to symbolize the corruptive power of war	Innocent, kind, cold-blooded
Linda	The first love of Tim O'Brien, dies of cancer	Was O'Brien's first experience with death and love	Young, kind
Bobby Jorgeson	The replacement medic for Rat Kiley, improperly heals O'Brien's wound	Is a victim of O'Brien's and Azar's mental torture	Incompetent
Ted Lavender	Alpha Company soldier, dies from a gunshot wound to the head	The soldiers' reaction to his death illustrate how sudden death can be	Scared, weak

Setting

- Vietnam during the late 1960s
- Massachusetts several years after the war

Significance of Opening Scene

The significance of the opening scene in *The Things They Carried* is that, by keeping Martha's pictures with him during the war, it can be seen that Jimmy Cross wishes to remember a happier, more innocent time.

Symbols

- The pants that Henry Dobbins uses as a good luck charm
- The pictures Lt. Cross has of Martha

Significance of Closing Scene

The significance of the closing scene in *The Things They Carried* is that O'Brien reveals that by telling his stories, he is able to keep the dead alive and he also realizes that in telling Linda's story, he is also attempting to keep his childhood alive.

Old AP Question

In literary works, cruelty often functions as a crucial motivation or a major social or political factor. Select a novel, play, or epic poem in which acts of cruelty are important to the theme. Then write a well-developed essay analyzing how cruelty functions in the work as a whole and what the cruelty reveals about the perpetrator and/or victim.

Possible Themes

Corruption: The Vietnam War transforms Mary Anne from an innocent girl into a woman who is one with the jungles of Vietnam. The war also changes O'Brien, making him capable of mentally torturing Torgerson.

Innocence: Mary Anne Bell's innocence is compromised by the Vietnam War.

Death: The Alpha Company soldiers deal with death by (literally) greeting the dead, O'Brien deals with death by writing stories to keep the dead alive.