



Classroom activities

Swiss gloomth

Activity Summary:

Mary Shelley came up with the idea for *Frankenstein* when staying in the Swiss village of Cologny, which overlooks Lake Geneva, in the company of people such as Lord Byron. Read the Byron correspondence and look at Percy's sketches of Lake Geneva, for example. The Neo-Gothic genre of which *Frankenstein* forms a part is heavily dependent on ideas of 'gloomth' to set the atmosphere. A new travel agency has asked you to write a 400 word description of the place to go in their new brochure of inspirational literary locations. Research and write a piece on the literary importance of this Swiss location.

Suggested groups: Y11-12

Resources:

Access to the exhibition items dealing with Switzerland, including Percy Shelley's picture over Lake Geneva and relevant correspondence.

Internet access for research.

Word processing facilities for final product.

Learning Objectives:

*use of different forms of writing for specific purposes.

*research skills in finding material.

*improved ICT skills in presenting the product.

AO and Syllabus links:

This links to issues of art and art history, and the Illustrations activity.

Further information:

This can provide an exercise in students' ability to use search engines effectively. Looking up online travel agents, and image or text for Geneva, Cologny, Byron, Shelley etc. will throw up many items for them to differentiate between in choosing their material (suggested worksheet attached).

This could work in class or for homework, as individual or group work.