

Blood and Guts

How Tragedy Shows the Necessity of
Recognition



Thesis: Through an analysis of Shakespeare's King Lear and Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, this paper will prove what we owe most to humanity is a recognition of suffering.

Rejection and Personhood

- Gloucester, King Lear
- "I have so often blushed to acknowledge him."
- "There was good sport at his making// and this whoreson must be acknowledged"
- "My nativity was under Ursa Major, so that it follows I am rough and lecherous."
- "Legitimate Edgar, I must have your land."



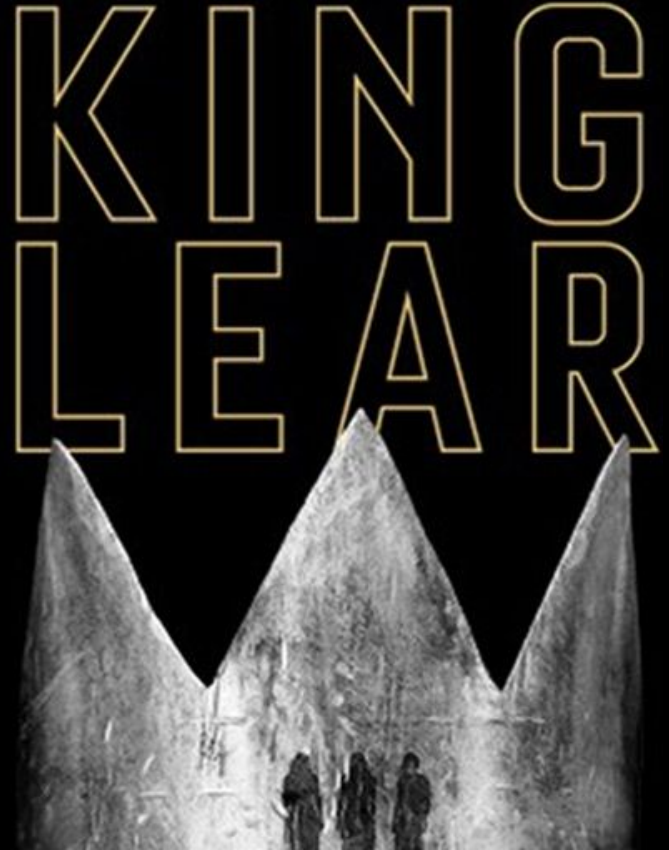
Rejection and Personhood

- Victor Frankenstein, Frankenstein
- "How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom..I had endeavoured to form?"
- "The minutest description of my odious and loathsome person is given in language which painted your own horrors and rendered mine indelible."
- "Yet you, my creator, detest and spurn me."



Recognition

- "When my dimensions are as well compact
/My mind as generous and my shape as true."
- "Yet Edmund was beloved."
- "I pant for life, some good I mean to do."



Recognition

- "When I looked around, I saw and heard nothing like me. Was I then a monster, a blot on the earth, from which all men fled, and whom all men disowned."
- "You must create a female for me, with whom I can live in the interchange of those sympathies necessary for my being."



Conclusions

- Rejection is harmful
- Recognition is the next step
- What should recognition look like?
 - ◆ Community?
 - ◆ Compassion?
 - ◆ Sympathy?

