

Is the guard killing because he is evil or no?

Well the lines between evil and good are grey in this novel, there is a constant pull between just and unjust; revenge and slaughter; violence and war. I don't think a binary approach to Whatsitsname can be used. He seems to be both good and bad. Now there is an interesting question on whether or not the guard is pulling the strings of the Whatsitsname or if there is someone/something else.

How does the Patchwork girl work?

You can think of it like an application that you would boot up and you can click on certain words or images in the text to lead you to the next part. It can be "read" in any order and can create different types of narratives. The closest contemporary app would be *Device 6*.

Do you prefer this type of appropriation?

I like an adaptation or appropriation that creates a meaningful new approach to an old work or comments on history, truth, religion, humanity, society, gender, class, or race.

Do you think this novel accurately represent the spirit of the original?

Like I said in class, the big question (for me) of the original is can something a human creates in a lab ever be human or can humans be benevolent Gods/creators? The big question here, is can something that was once human be human again? In this light, the "spirit" of the original is very close to *Frankenstein in Baghdad*. However, if you believe that the major question in the original is what are the limits of scientific inquiry? Then this adaptation is very far from the original. Essentially, we are trying to determine the features of the Frankenstein narrative and for me, it is dependent on the reader.

What are some more examples of popular simulations or text that don't credit the source material?

West Side Story is a play/film that draws heavily upon *Romeo and Juliet*, but does not reference the source material. It could be argued that the plot is so obviously an adaptation and therefore it is not a simulation, but I would argue that there is no reference at all to Shakespeare here. *Ex Machina* could also be considered a simulation, since it borrows the plot from Frankenstein but does not allude at all to its source material in any way.

How does Whatsitsname understand who he is?

Great question! I think this is deeply philosophical. Somehow the Whatsitsname knows things it hasn't experienced, and I think it is suggested that it can communicate with the memories of the body parts.

Why is it hard to agree on the order of events even though everyone is reading the same thing? Different opinions due to perspective?

We all have different cognitive processes, experiences, biases, politics, and hermeneutics which often shape our viewing/reading of particular texts. Some argue that the best works of art mean different things to different people and that you can interpret it different ways at different times in your life. It can be that the form of the novel makes it intentionally unclear for some greater purpose.

Is recalling the events in order important to reading a book?

It is good to have a “surface reading” or a plot driven understanding of the book as well as having a deeper understanding for the allusions and philosophical questions. You want to be able to communicate your readings to others and most of the time we use quotes or plot points to do that, so it is important to have an understanding of what goes on in the book.

Is there a Frankenstein comic book adaptation to read?

I really like *Embalming -The Another Tale of Frankenstein*, which is a mid-2000s Manga adaptation of the story.

Do I think revenge killing should be acceptable if the intended target is a killer or extreme criminal?

I think a philosophical concept called Contractualism might be helpful for thinking about this moral dilemma. Simply, Contractualism says an act is wrong if its performance is disallowed by behavioral norms by a moral community. We (as a community) decide what we owe to each other. For me, I think Kant’s Categorical Imperative is helpful for thinking about right and wrong: people are never a means to an end, they are a means within themselves.

Do you think adults knew *Starship Troopers* was making fun of fascism? Age makes all the difference?

Age is just sometimes a reflection of how developed one’s critical thinking skills are. The satire is so subtle, I think most people don’t think the movie is making fun of fascism, but the critics (who sometimes have more polished critical thinking skills) saw the satire.

Why doesn’t the Whatitsname just stop killing?

I think when your moral center is revenge, it seems like it never ends. Violence only begets more violence.

Who is the narrator of the book?

I don’t want to ruin it for you, because I think there are multiple ways of reading the novel. One theory you could justify is the narrator is Baghdad itself (the title might help justify this). You should reread the “final report” after you finished the book. It should help you determine this for yourself.

What is the best way to tell if a story is adaptation or appropriation?

How much the story you are reading/viewing is interested in the source material. Is it really interested? Then it is an adaptation. Not so much? Appropriation.

Do I think *Frankenstein in Baghdad* is an adaptation?

I think it operates on many different levels, I could say it is both an adaptation and appropriation.

Is Green used on the cover because of its connection to Islam?

Great question! As I understand it, the color green is closely associated with paradise and with Shia Muslims. It could be, I haven’t thought of it before. I would look for connections in the texts to Shia and paradise and see if that sticks. I would love a blog post on this concept.

Why is the book written in this patchwork form?

If one thinks of the creature as a patchwork, then the form of the novel reflects its subject. Also, I think this text is interested in truth, which seems to always be a synthesis of the multiple perspectives, not just a single one.

How similar is *Patchwork Girl* to *Frankenstein in Baghdad*?

They are extremely different. But they both operate as adaptations and appropriations.

When is the final project due?

It is due on our last class, December 4th at 8am.

How long of a Thanksgiving drive do I have?

With traffic and stops, it took me about 9.5 hours.