

Today is: Friday, Nov. 13, 2015

D day

Period 5: Today, You Will Need:

Ms. David

➤Do-Now, Pen

➤Sit Down Quietly and Get to Work!

## Today's Agenda

- Do-Now Paragraph #2
- Story: "The Chaser"
- Graphic Organizer

## 11/12 Yesterday's Do-Now ¶

### Playing "Mother Nature?"

For years there have been arguments about how much scientists should tamper with life's basic natural forces. In the novel Frankenstein, Mary Shelley explores the idea of a scientist, who creates a life within dead organic tissue. Mary Shelley's book goes on to tell the story of the disastrous results of this project. Many people would agree that nature is not for us humans to mess with.

However, some scientists who disagree claim that human progress requires experimentation. It's unlikely, of course, that they're going to re-create the story of Frankenstein, but how can we be sure that the effects of their experimentation won't be just as disastrous? Through their literary works, authors like Mary Shelley try to get us to think about this and other issues.

## Short Story: "The Chaser," by John Collier

Together, we will read and annotate the story, "The Chaser," by John Collier.

Then we will look for literary elements and techniques.

We will examine the author's craft: how techniques are used to create essential elements of the story.

Finally, you have an Exit Ticket to complete about the story.

# The Chaser

by John Collier

Alan Austen, as nervous as a kitten, went up certain dark and creaky stairs in the neighborhood of Pell Street, and peered about for a long time on the dime landing before he found the name he wanted written obscurely on one of the doors. unclearly

He pushed open this door, as he had been told to do, and found himself in a tiny room, which contained no furniture but a plain kitchen table, a rocking-chair, and an ordinary chair. On one of the dirty buff-colored walls were a couple of shelves, containing in all perhaps a dozen bottles and jars.

An old man sat in the rocking-chair, reading a newspaper. Alan, without a word, handed him the card he had been given. "Sit down, Mr. Austen," said the old man very politely. "I am glad to make your acquaintance." Happy to know you.

"Is it true," asked Alan, "that you have a certain mixture that has-er-quite extraordinary effects?"

## NOTES

peered = looked

he has not been here before, but someone told him about it.

buff = light tan

Why is he there?

"My dear sir," replied the old man, "my stock in trade is not very large--I don't deal in laxatives and teething mixtures--but such as it is, it is varied. I think nothing I sell has effects which could be precisely described as ordinary." everything he sells is extraordinary

"Well, the fact is. . ." began Alan. (unusual, very special)

"Here, for example," interrupted the old man, reaching for a bottle from the shelf. "Here is a liquid as colorless as water, almost tasteless, quite imperceptible in coffee, wine, or any other beverage. It is also quite imperceptible to any known method of autopsy." after death?

"Do you mean it is a poison?" cried Alan, very much horrified.

## NOTES

-ordinary medications

im = not you can't see, smell or taste it

"Call it a glove-cleaner if you like," said the old man  
indifferently "Maybe it will clean gloves. I have never tried.  
 One might call it a life-cleaner. Lives need cleaning sometimes." ?

"I want nothing of that sort," said Alan.

"Probably it is just as well," said the old man. "Do you know  
 the price of this? For one teaspoonful, which is sufficient, I ask  
 five thousand dollars. Never less. Not a penny less."

"I hope all your mixtures are not as expensive," said Alan  
apprehensively. → **nervously**

"Oh dear, no," said the old man. "It would be no good  
 charging that sort of price for a love potion, for example. Young  
 people who need a love potion very seldom have five thousand  
 dollars. Otherwise they would not need a love potion." \* **not often**  
**people with money**

"I am glad to hear that," said Alan. **make happy** **don't need help finding love.**

"I look at it like this," said the old man. "Please a customer  
 with one article, and he will come back when he needs another.  
 Even if it is more costly. He will save up for it, if necessary."

**in = not**

**enough**

**not often**

**people with money**

**don't need help finding love.**

"So," said Alan, "you really do sell love potions?"

"If I did not sell love potions," said the old man, reaching for  
 another bottle, "I should not have mentioned the other matter ?  
 to you. It is only when one is in a position to oblige that one can  
 afford to be so confidential. **trusting**

"And these potions," said Alan. "They are not just-just-er-"

"Oh, no," said the old man. "Their effects are permanent,  
 and extend far beyond the mere casual impulse. But they  
 include it. Oh, yes they include it. Bountifully, insistently.  
 Everlastingly."

"Dear me!" said Alan, attempting a look of scientific  
 detachment. "How very interesting!"

"But consider the spiritual side," said the old man.

"I do, indeed," said Alan.

**do as someone asks**  
**in order to please**  
**them**

Closing Ritual**Return materials to their proper places**

- Books go back NEATLY on the book shelves.
- Composition Books/Folders go in the correct crates.
- Be sure your first AND last names are on work you turn in!
- Clean up around your area. Straighten out desks.

See you Monday!