

KEEPSAKE AUTHOR MYSTERY
Essay Due: Thursday, April 10, 2008
Word Count: 100-200 words + Works Cited

During 1829-1840, Mary Shelley published over twenty short stories in literary annuals, a genre that was overwhelmingly popular in England and America for its poetry, short stories, travel accounts and engravings. Shelley often cited these shorter pieces as her best work and, in fact, helped to alter Gothic literature with these short stories. However, Shelley wasn't the only author to publish in this popular genre. For this assignment, we will work with a facsimile of the 1829 *Keepsake*, a literary annual in which Shelley published two short stories.

1. Choose a literary text (poem or prose) from the *Keepsake* (see the Table of Contents [vi-vii]).
Note: You may *not* choose a Wordsworth, Coleridge or Shelley text.
2. If you have chosen a text by an "Author of," identify the author using Boyle's *Index to the Annuals* (see me).
3. Read your author's biography in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (available to SJSU students here: <http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/databases/index.htm>).
Note: We will have a brief tutorial during class.
4. Read your chosen text from the *Keepsake*.
5. Write a 100-200 word essay about your author and the literary text itself. In this writing, avoid summarizing the story. Instead, include pertinent information about the author's biography (who is he/she?) and a brief analysis on the text's themes.

Turning In Your Essay:

This essay is due on Tuesday, April 10 by 3pm (either via email or Google Docs sharing). Submit to Turnitin.com prior to our class meeting. Late papers will receive the penalization indicated on our syllabus. Failure to follow the below requirements will result in a lower grade.

- Submit to Turnitin.com
- Typed and double-spaced in 12pt font with one inch margins
- Works Cited page in MLA format (include ODNB citations)
- In-text citations in MLA style (parenthetical citation)
- Name, date, course and section number typed at the top left corner of the first page
- Name and page number typed in upper right corner of every page following the first page
- Staple the pages together. (DO NOT FOLD OR PAPERCLIP YOUR PAGES.)
- Proofread everything before you turn it in; there should be no spelling or typographical errors.