

ENGLISH-SPEAKING WRITERS

WARM-UP

a. Work on the following questions:

Here is a list of writers. Which ones do you know? Can you find a picture of them? Collect some info on any you like (remember to quote the source) and/or make a collage. Do you know other titles of their books, or of films based on their books?

b. Take notes on the questions 1-30 that you work on

c. A link which might be useful could be <http://www.enotes.com>

ONE. GET THE CREEPS & OTHER EXCITEMENT!

Mary Shelley (Britain, 1797-1851)

Novel: *Frankenstein, the Modern Prometheus* (1818). She also wrote short stories.

1. Visit <http://www.kimwoodbridge.com/maryshel/essays.shtml>. What info can you find there?
2. Who was Prometheus?

Mary Shelley's mother, Mary Wollstonecraft (Britain, 1759-1797), was an activist in the French Revolution and wrote the essay *A Vindication of Women's Rights* (1792). She died 10 days after her daughter was born.

3. If you're interested, visit <http://www.litgothic.com/Authors/wollstonecraft.html>

Edgard Allan Poe (The USA, 1809-1849)

Terror short stories: *Tales of the Grotesque and the Arabesque* (collection of short stories), *The Fall of the House of Usher* (1839)... Detective stories: *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* (1841)... Poetry: *The Raven* (1845), *The Bells* (1849)

4. Have you got any of Poe's works at home? Which?

Agatha Christie (Britain, 1890-1976)

Detective novels: *Murder on the Orient Express* (1934) (film made in 1974)

5. What's the mystery around A. Christie's life?

Stephen King (The USA, 1947)

One of Stephen King's few realistic, non-horror, non-science-fiction works, his novella *The Body*, is probably the best piece of work he has ever produced. The characters are well rounded, the dialogue is excellent, and the entire mood is invitingly nostalgic. There is a moving movie version, *Stand By Me*.

Quote: *Even if I'd known the right thing to say, I probably couldn't have said it. Speech destroys the functions of love, I think.*

6. Do you know this novella? Translate the quote from it, please.
7. Visit his official website in <http://www.stephenking.com> and comment.

Joanne Kathleen Rowling (Britain, 1965) Novels: The Harry Potter series.

8. If you've read any, please comment. If you've seen any of the films, comment. If you've seen both, compare them.