

Investigating affective
contemporary responses to
historical versus contemporary
Gothic writing.

Our Project:

#Snacademics Investigating affective contemporary responses to historical vs contemporary Gothic Writing

Databases
Goodreads
Reading Experience Database

Data we're collecting
Goodreads - Collaboratively produced lists
E.g. Top 100 books by women
Netflix-type categories
- Forums/comments (on reviews too)

not user-defined, based on aggregate review data

Genre focus?
* Novel
* Gothic? - female-dominated lit

Commoners 😊
- How to define women?

RED - mineability 😞
incestuous 😞

contextualising/framing reading response
pseudonym problems!

Affect Scale (sentiment analysis)

TEXTS

Old	New
Frankenstein	The Woman in Black
Wuthering Heights	Twilight
Dracula	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Our texts:

Tenant of Wildfell Hall

Frankenstein

Twilight

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children

Our method:

Took the top 25 from Goodreads (mix of ratings)

Ranked by how many had liked/commented, so community effectively chooses which are most relevant.

Joint excel sheet, marked up using the CLAWS tagger tool, put through ant-conc for analysis particularly of adjectives.

Made tonnes of graphs!



Want to Read ▾

Rate this book



Read Book* *Different edition

Frankenstein: The 1818 Text

by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Charlotte Gordon (Goodreads Author) (Introduction)

★★★★☆ 3.76 · Rating details · 904,039 Ratings · 20,785 Reviews

Mary Shelley's seminal novel of the scientist whose creation becomes a monster

This edition is the original 1818 text, which preserves the hard-hitting and politically charged aspects of Shelley's original writing, as well as her unflinching wit and strong female voice. This edition also includes a new introduction and suggestions for further reading by author and Shelley expert Charlotte Gordon, literary excerpts and reviews selected by Gordon and a chronology and essay by preeminent Shelley scholar Charles E. Robinson. [\(less\)](#)

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Paperback

Expected publication: March 8th 2018 by Penguin Classics (first published 1818)

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GENRES

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Horror	6,624 users
Science Fiction	3,466 users
Classics	3,444 users
Gothic	1,722 users
Fantasy	1,680 users

All ▾ frankenstein



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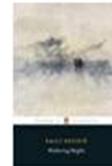
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Wuthering Heights

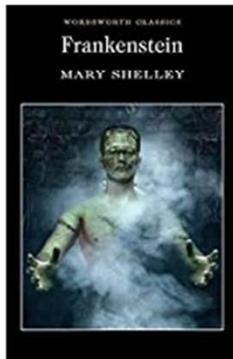


Jane Eyre (Penguin Classics)



Dracula (Penguin Classics)

[Ad feedback](#)



Frankenstein: Or, the Modern Prometheus (Wordsworth Classics) 5 May 1992

by Mary Shelley and Dr Siv Jansson

Paperback

£2⁰⁰ prime

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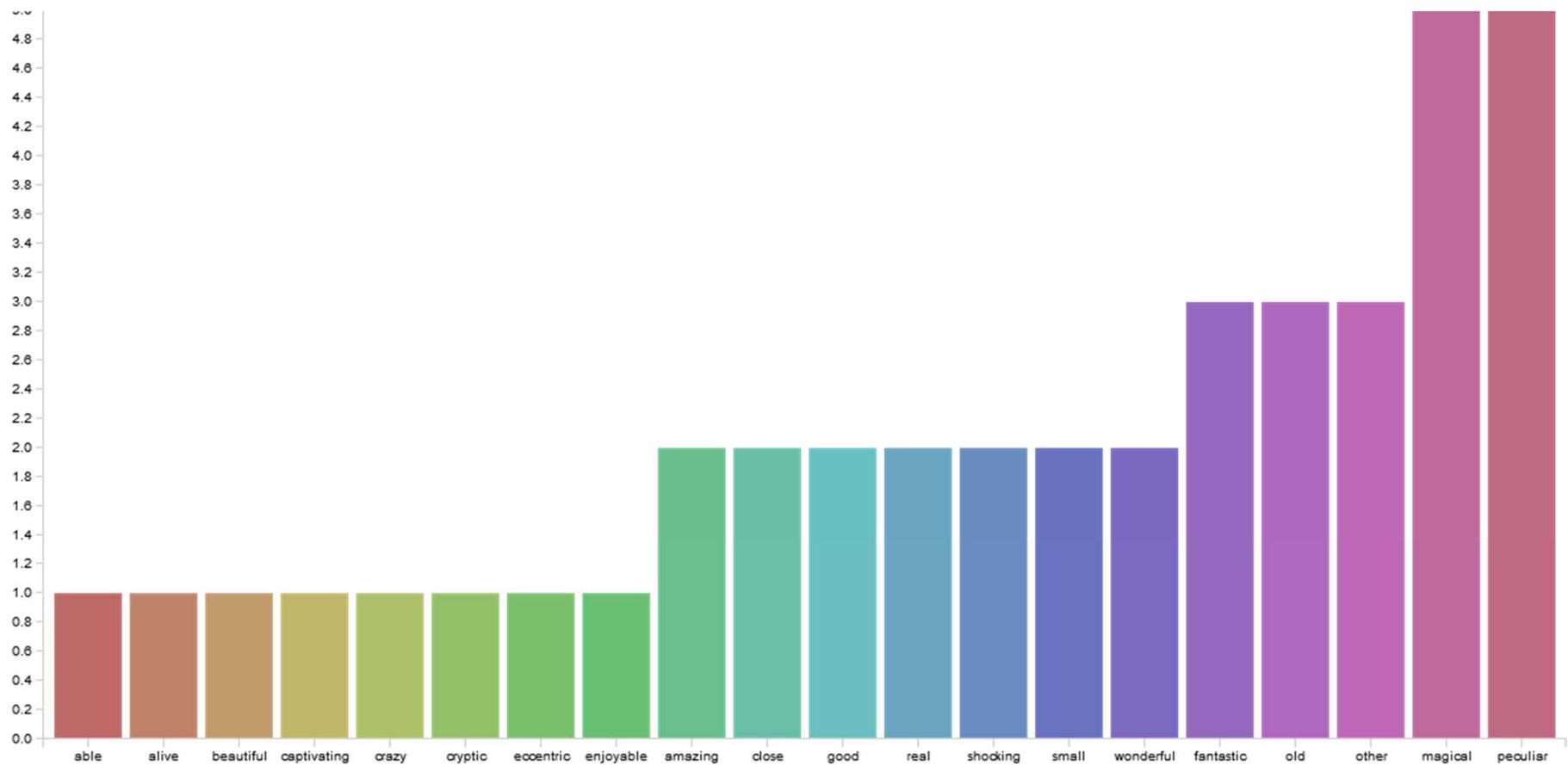
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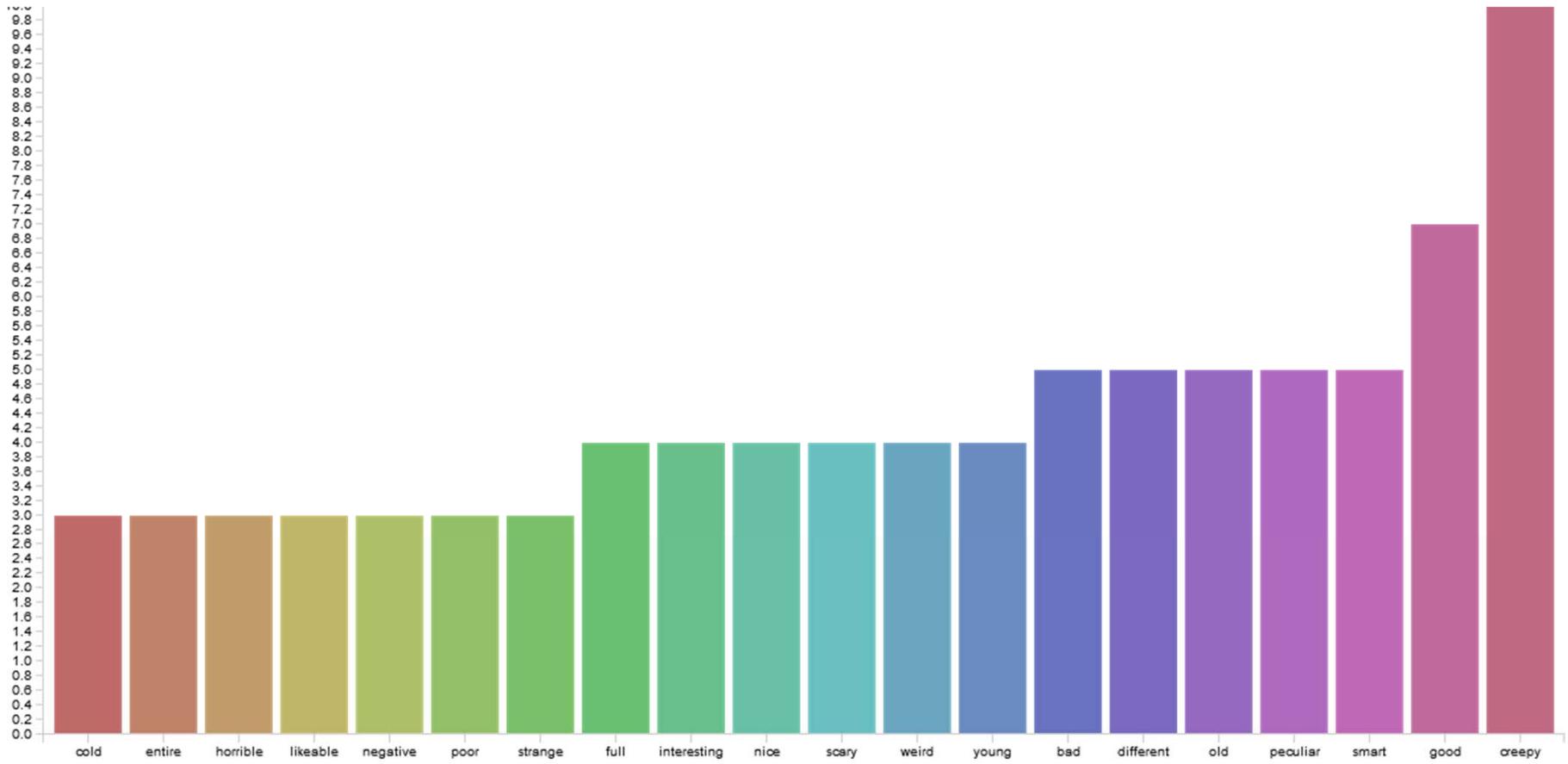
£0⁰⁰

Whispersync for Voice-ready

Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar







CREEPY

“It DID have that creepy portent that the cover promised”

“marvelous collection of creepy, vintage photographs”

“nowhere as creepy or weird as it touts itself to be.”

“the narrative never reaches the level of creepy of the visual materials it relies on”

Reviews of Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

"I am choosing to hold back a star...Anne's writing lacks Emily's verve and Charlotte's intellectual rigour and that certain something which makes one wish to prolong the act of reading a book."

"For a modern reader, it's difficult to understand how she could like Gilbert, who is really annoying, veering between preachiness and sudden bouts of sullenness and violence, no doubt in the way Anne observed men behaving."

"Poor Helen. Poor Anne. Poor book..."

"Helen Huntingdon will tell you precisely what she thinks of you, with documentary supporting evidence from your wife, and then she will close the library door and make good art, which you are not allowed to see."

"I can't even find energy to write what Anne did great in this work (and there are of course things she should be praised for). Today this book suffocated me with the writer's sour attitude and moralizing."

"As always, I'm dumbfounded by the Brontës' profound understanding of human motivation and romantic love given their sheltered upbringing. Theirs were wild hearts."

Lessons & Reflections from *Tenant*

Much of the sentiment of these reviews was as expected: highly gendered language and over-attention to the author and biographical details.

Different scales of good to bad depending on which book we examined

In the case of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, most of the reviews were 4-5 stars and were largely rave reviews by those who seemed to have a good grasp on the context of the Brontë sisters already.

Rather than the 1-2 star reviews suggesting that the book was bad, users largely thought it was boring or confusing. Instead of a scale of bad to good, the scale for this book seems to be unstimulating to stimulating.

Twilight Examples

5* 'Oh my. This book, to me, is like chocolate: a delicious, sinful, addictive indulgence which you convince yourself has beneficial qualities (zinc, calcium, keeps me quiet at that time of the month...) in order to justify your addiction.'

'I forgot how much I loved this book. No, it's not the best written book, but it is incredibly entertaining to read and it has so many wonderful memories attached to it. I probably won't reread the rest of the series anytime in the immediate future, but I hope to some day!'

I'm tired of people ripping this book to pieces and secretly devouring it. I don't believe you for a second that you didn't enjoy it if you happened to have ratings and long rants about the following books. Accept it! Stephanie Meyer kept you reading her very long books!... Now don't you like junk food? Do you really only eat select cuisine? Admit it! You put crazy stuff in your McDonalds french fries and then claim it's the most delicious thing ever! Not every meal has to be a delicatessen and not every read has to become the next War and Peace. You just don't read the book...I find the people who says I'm stupid because I ADORE TWILIGHT to be snobbish, arrogant and insufferable.'

1* I think I might enjoy the story a lot more if Bella's idiot head was not the one I had to spend time in while reading it. If I had to read one more description of how beautiful Edward is, I was going to choke a kitten.

This is hardly the tip of the iceberg, but I'm trying to spare you at least a little. Save your time: here's the entirety of Twilight in 20 dialogue snippets & a wiggedy-wack intermission.

"Show, don't tell" is not the be-all-and-end-all of writing. There's a little thing called summary narrative. It's beautiful; it facilitates plot progression without having to follow your narrator through 24-fucking-hours of a day... and "watch" as she eats a fucking granola bar for breakfast.

Lessons & Reflections from *Twilight*

- **Sentiment analysis is really hard** even when the text is something polarising like *Twilight* - Sarcasm doesn't read well, some people chose to parody/re-write the text, and also included huge chunks of quotes in the review which messes with results.
- We tried to do some **sentiment analysis with the Python NLTK program**, but that didn't yield much - it doesn't cover issues like the multiple uses of 'like', or sarcasm, and overall negative/positive reviews tended to have huge variance due to the way they were written.