

Dickens (1)

TEXTUALITY

1.6 Every text is *in process*: it is not a fixed thing once and for all but multiply realized in forms like manuscripts, editions, bootlegs, and remixes. The relation between realizations is a matter for investigation. Scholars do not agree on whether some realizations are more privileged than others, but such debates depend, in part, on controversies over authorship and authority.

POOVEY AS WRITER

motive Because her works demonstrate the difficulties that the conflicting expectations of this transitional period posed for a woman writer, Mary Shelley emerges as an important figure. (332)

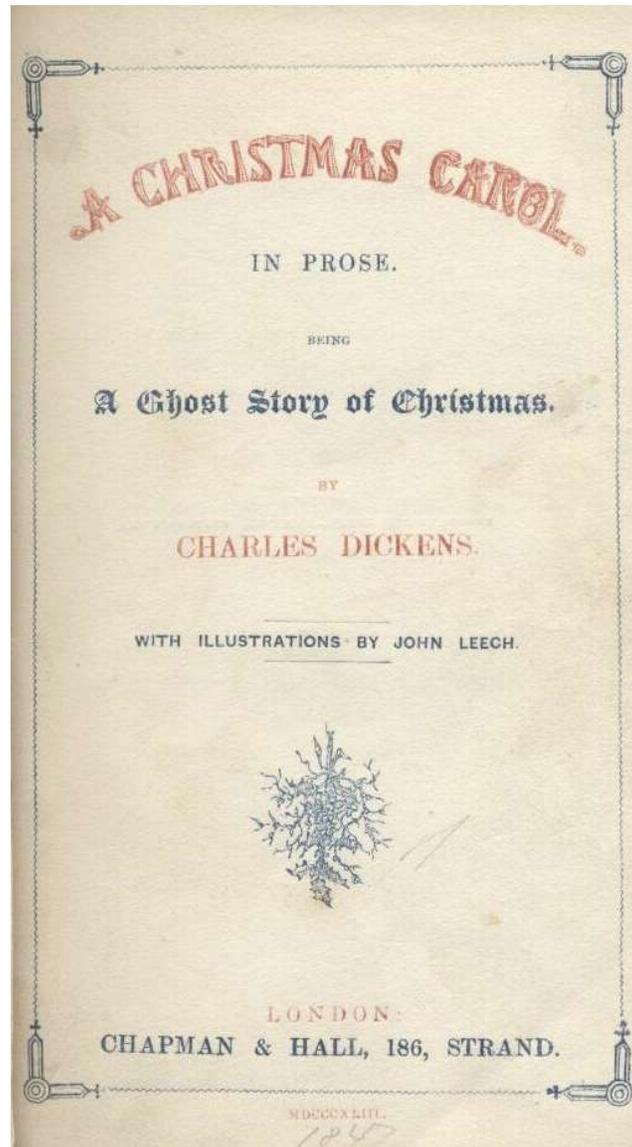
thesis (1) Shelley explodes the foundations of Romantic optimism by demonstrating that the egotistical energies necessary to self-assertion...inevitably imperil the self-denying energies of love. (332)

thesis (2) Taken together, the two editions of *Frankenstein* provide a case study in the tensions inherent in the feminine adaptation of the Romantic “egotistical sublime.” (333)

choice of evidence Walton’s letters, as the dominant chain of all the narrations, preserve community despite Frankenstein’s destructive self-devotion, for they link him and his correspondents (Mrs. Saville and the reader) into a relationship that Frankenstein can neither enter nor destroy. (340)

MORE DATES

1812	Charles Dickens born
1818	<i>Frankenstein</i> published
1831	<i>Frankenstein</i> , rev. ed.
1836–37	<i>Pickwick Papers</i> (first Dickens hit)
1837	Victoria becomes Queen
1843	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> published in December
1851	Mary Shelley dies
1870	Dickens dies
1891	Conan Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”
1901	Victoria dies



The narrow space within which it was necessary to confine these Christmas Stories when they were originally published, rendered their construction a matter of some difficulty, and almost necessitated what is peculiar in their machinery. I could not attempt great elaboration of detail, in the working out of character within such limits. My chief purpose was, in a whimsical kind of masque which the good humour of the season justified, to awaken some loving and forbearing thoughts, never out of season in a Christian land.

Dickens, preface to *Christmas Books* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1852; [HathiTrust](#)).