

Shelley Jackson: A self-described "student in the art of digression"

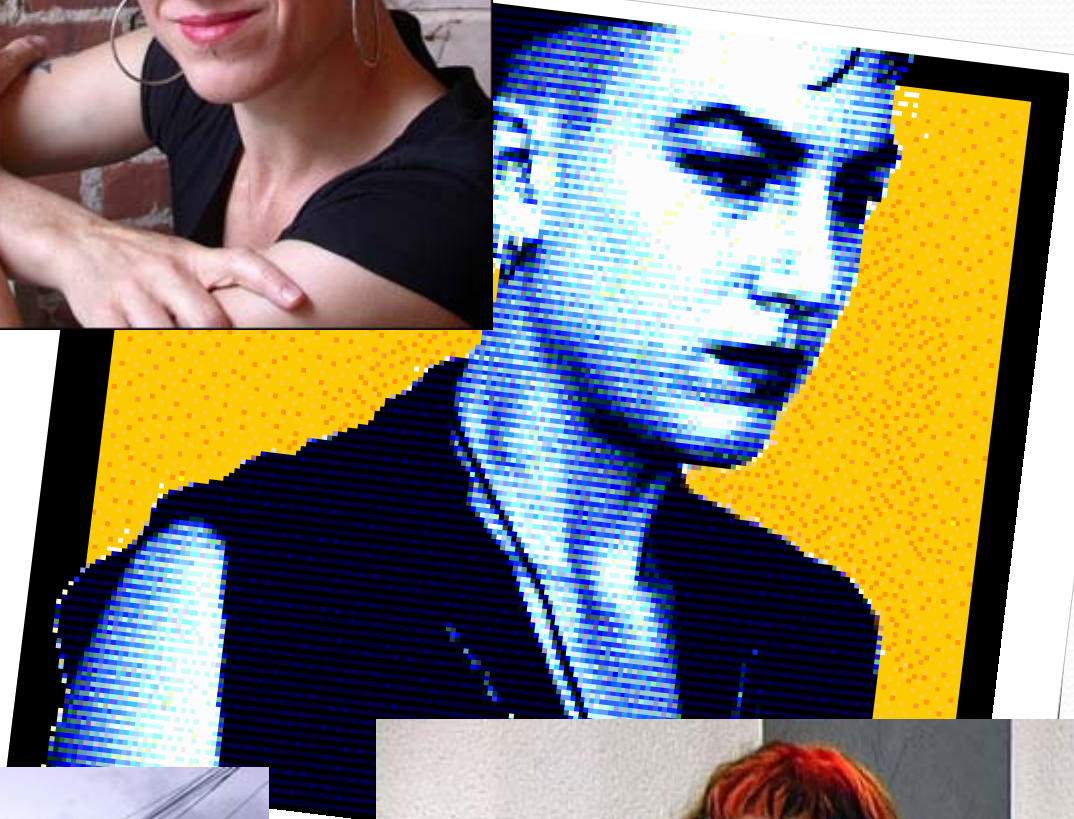
<http://www.eastgate.com/people/Jackson.html>

"I like digression and

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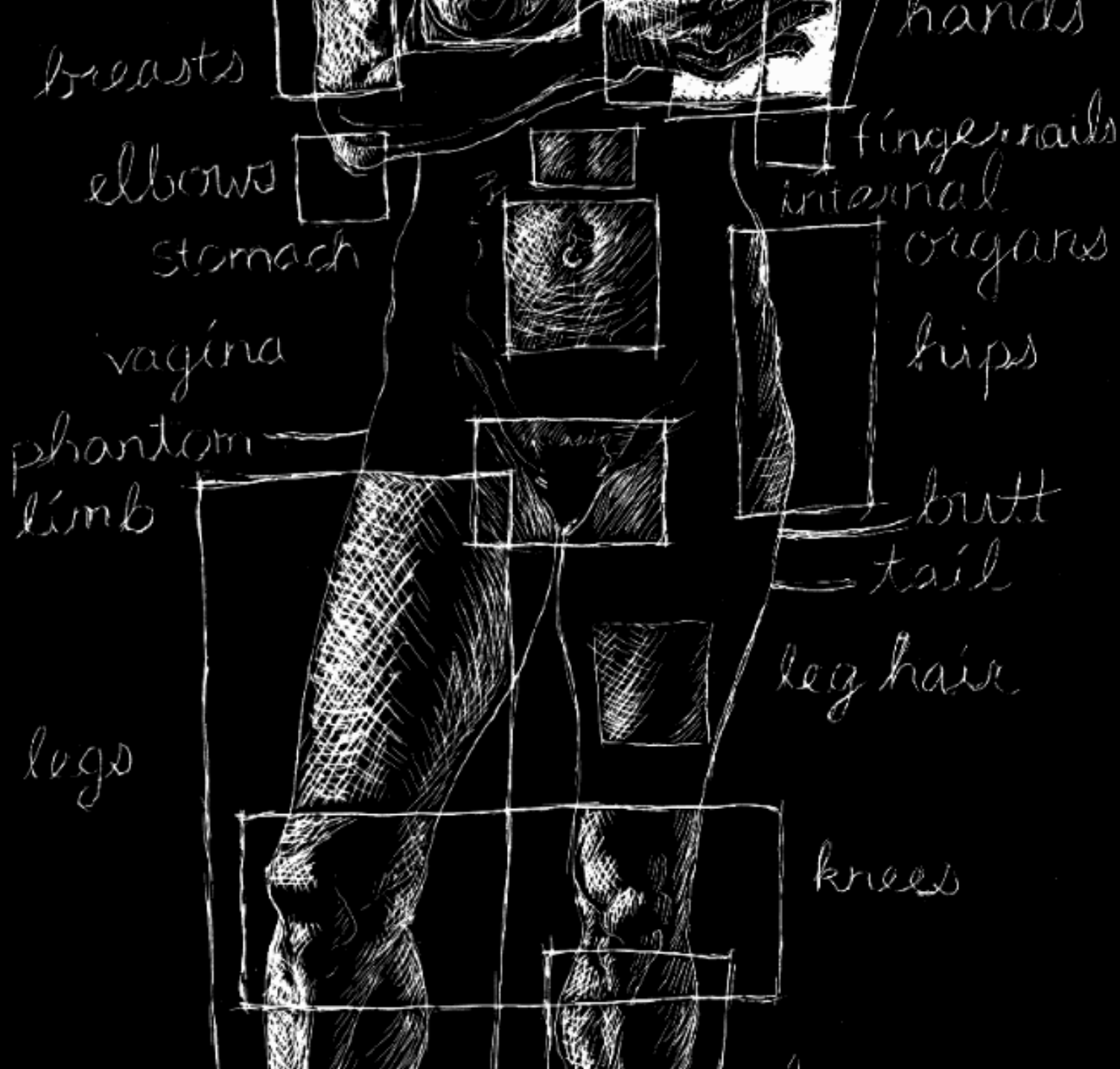


Kafka



Shelley Jackson Biography

- Born in 1963 in the Philippines
- Raised in Berkeley, CA
- Her family ran a bookstore, which had a great influence on her. She fell in love with books and she knew she wanted to become a writer.
- B.A. in Art from Stanford University
- M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Brown University
- At Brown, she was educated about electronic literature
- During a lecture she began to draw a “naked woman, with dotted line scars”, she later expanded this idea into the hypertext novel, *Patchwork Girl*.
- *Patchwork Girl* had become a best selling CD-Rom.
- The CD-ROM is considered groundbreaking work of hyperfiction
- Hyperfiction- is a genre of electronic literature, characterized by the use of hypertext links, which provides a new context for non-linearity in literature and reader interaction.
- After *Patchwork Girl*, Jackson published two more hypertexts. Autobiographical *My Body* (1997), and *The Doll Games* (2001).
- In 1987, Jackson married the writer Jonathan Lethem; they divorced in 1998.
- Currently teaches in the graduate writing program at The New School University and is also a writer-in-residence at the European Graduate School in Switzerland.



breasts

hands

elbows

fingernails

stomach

internal
organs

vagina

hips

phantom
limb

butt

tail

leg hair

legs

knees

Other works by Jackson

- Hypertext:
 - Patchwork Girl (1995)
 - My Body (1997)
 - <http://www.altx.com/thebody/body.html>
 - The Doll Games (2001)
 - <http://www.altx.com/thebody/body.html>
- Books
 - The Old Woman and The Wave (Children's book, 1998)
 - Sophia, the Alchemist's Dog (Children's book, 2001)
 - The Melancholy of Anatomy (short story collection, 2002)
 - Half Life (novel, 2006)- won the James Tiptree Jr. Award for science fiction and fantasy
- Other: INERADICABLE STAIN
 - <http://ineradicablestain.com/stain.html>
- Poetry

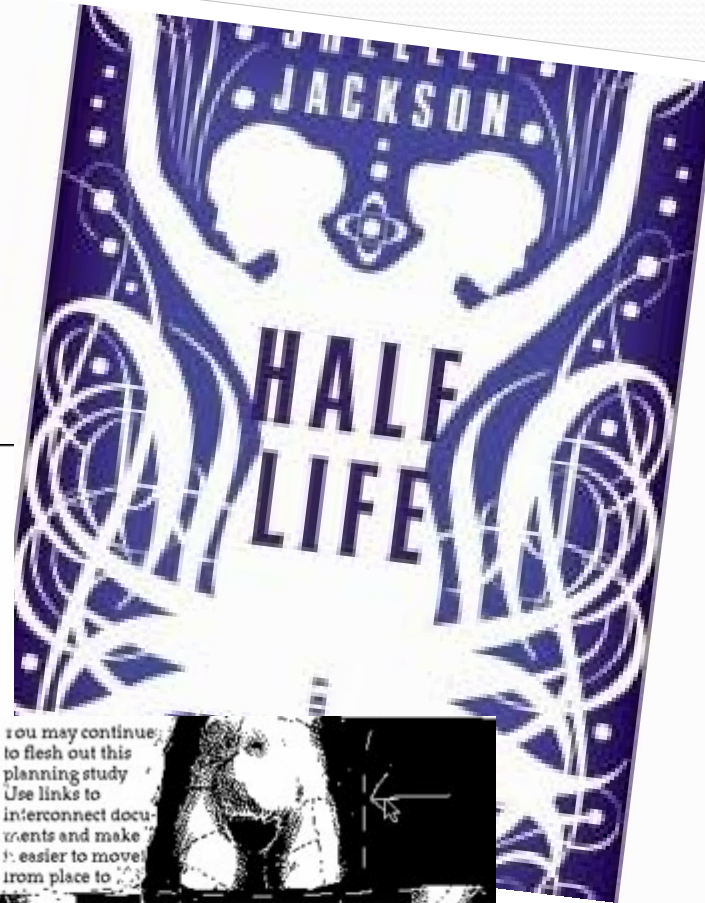
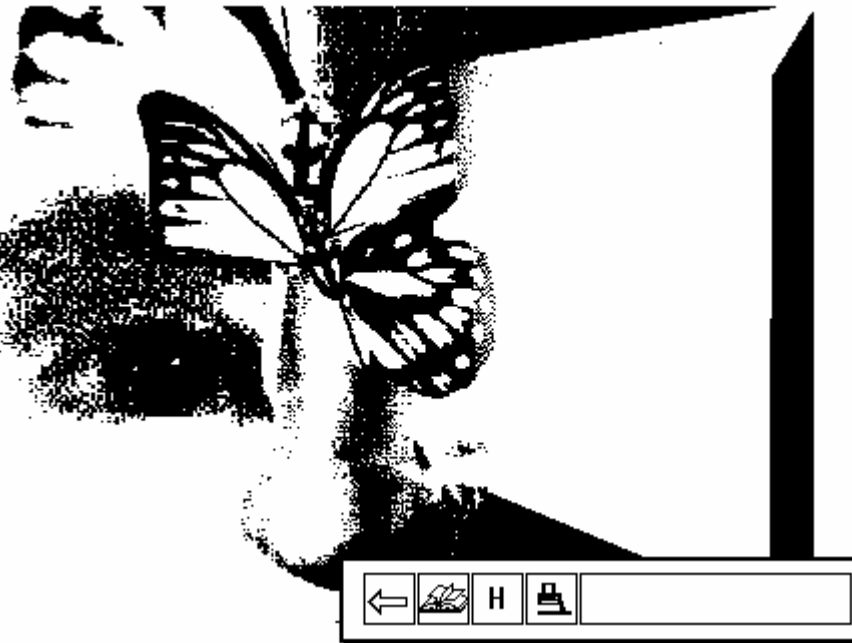


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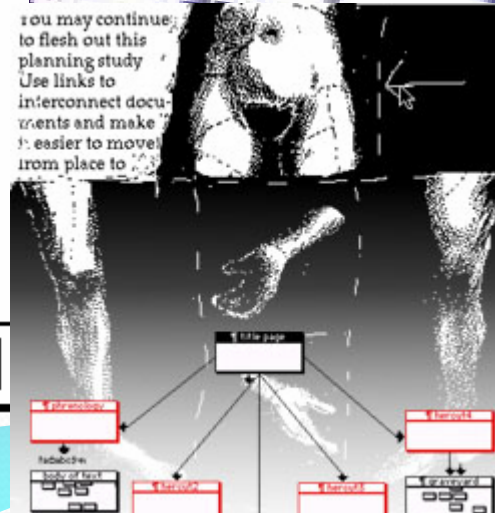
PWG



option+command for links



you may continue
to flesh out this
planning study
Use links to
interconnect docu-
ments and make
it easier to move
from place to



Patchwork Girl

- Patchwork Girl (PWG) is a hypertext novel
 - What is Hypertext?
 - *text that “links” in multiple ways to other text.* (Chin)
 - *Non-linear- no beginning or end*
 - an interactive literature (Chin)
 - hypertext requires different reading strategies than the print novel (Davis)
 - Maybe frustrating – disorienting
 - Never know where in the text you are.
 - No sense of progression or completion

History of Hypertext Literature

- Introduced and popularized around the late 1980s, through mid-1990s
 - *pre-dates the World Wide Web*
- Published using special software
 - *Storyspace (Eastgate Systems)*
 - *Hypercard*

(Chin)

Patchwork Girl (PWG)

- Consists

- Lexicon

- “P

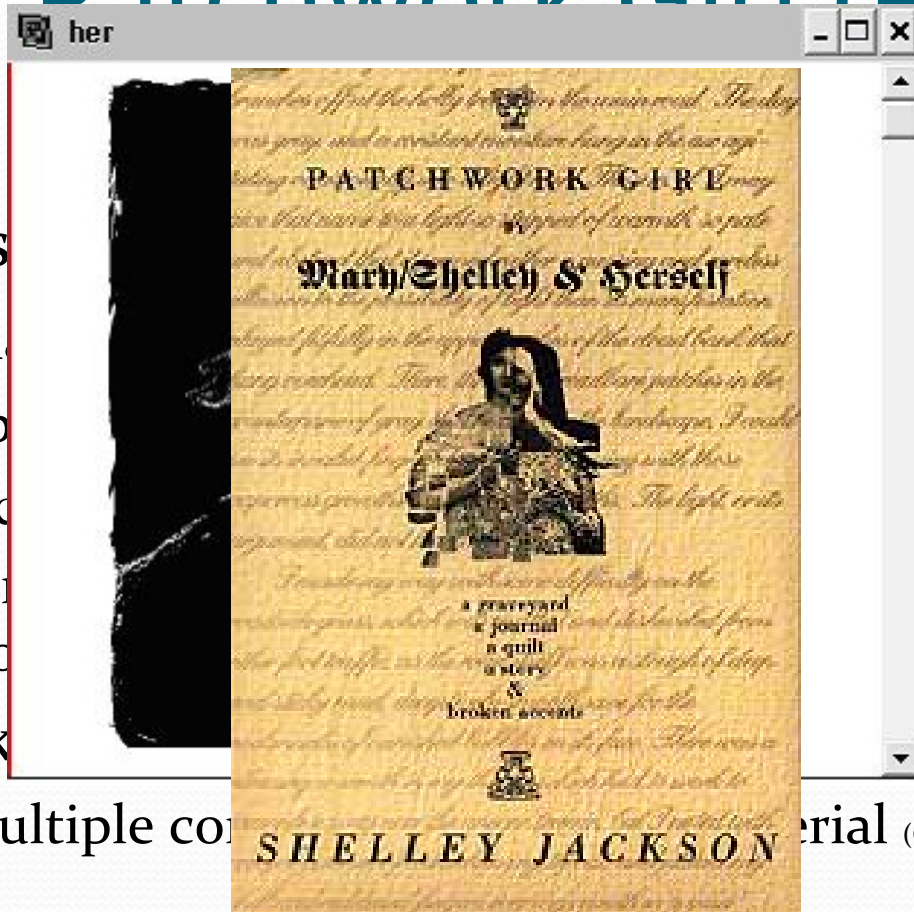
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- Link

- Multiple co



inks (Chin)

more some 300

aterial (Clayton)

Basic premise

- Shelley Jackson's *Patchwork Girl* takes as its premise that Mary Shelley's second monster, the female companion that Victor Frankenstein began creating but then destroyed, was secretly finished by Mary Shelley herself. The monster becomes MS's lover, then travels to America, where it goes through interesting adventures until its final dispersal into its component parts in the early 1990s. (Chin)

SKIN ON'S INERADICABLE STAIN



www.ineradicablestain.com/skin.html

www.ineradicablestain.com/skindex.html

from: <http://www.uio>

www.ineradicablestain.com/skindex.html

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- Words -Yo

- <http://youtu>



PWG

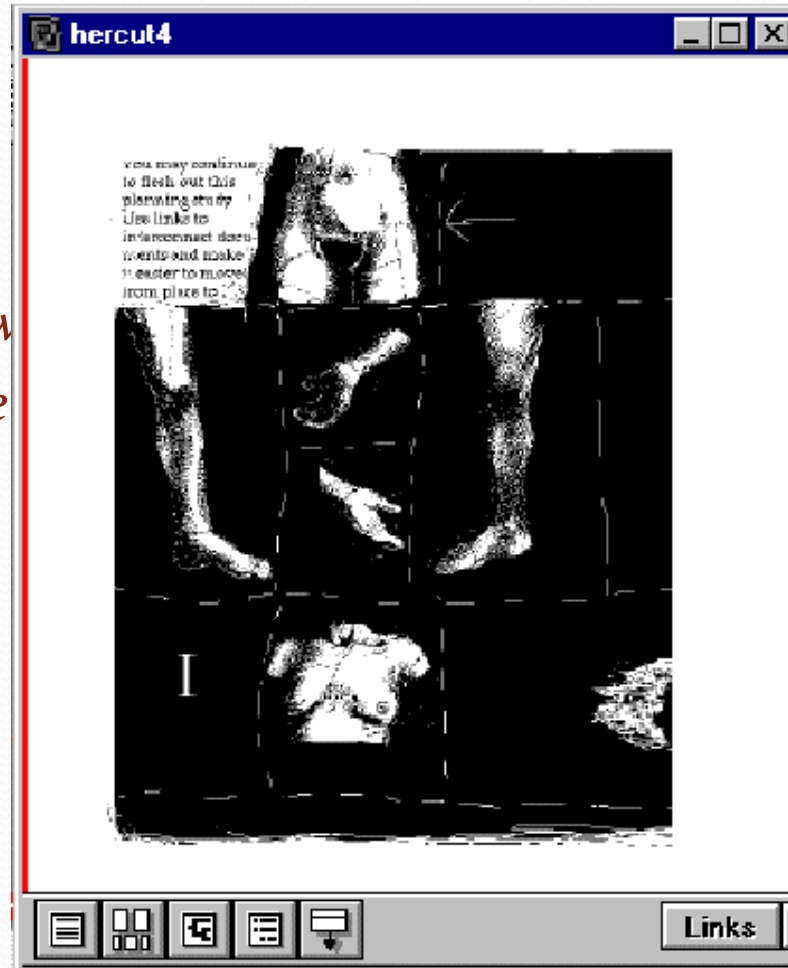
- Inspirations

- Novels

- *The Patchwork Girl*

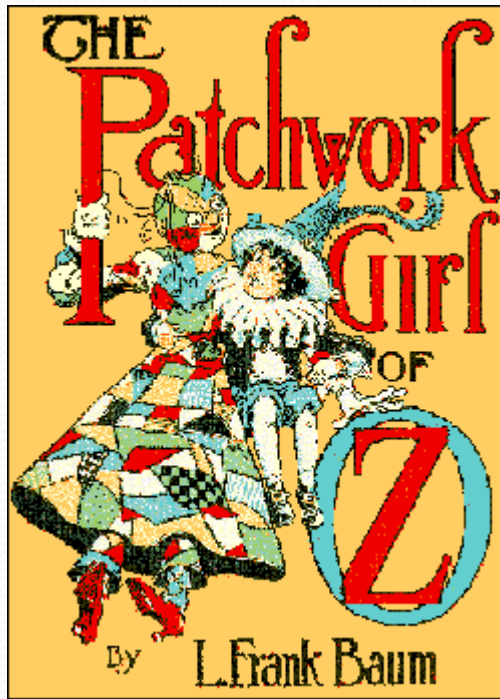
- *Frankenstein*

- (Chin)



13)

The Patchwork Girl of Oz

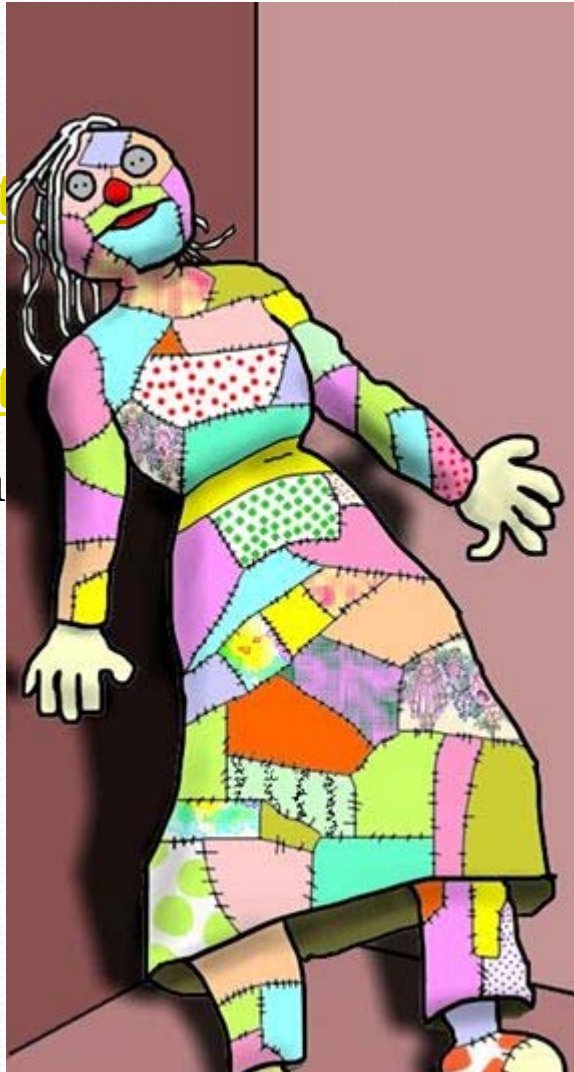


- **Synopsis** The magical practices and potions of the Land of Oz is the thread running through *The Patchwork Girl*. The story begins with a visit by a young Munchkin lad, Ojo the Unlucky, who with his Unc Nunkie visit a reclusive magician, Dr. Pipt. The old sorcerer has just completed the six year task of brewing a spoonful of the Powder of Life, and is preparing to administer it to a life-sized rag doll made by his wife Margolotte. The intent is to create a servant to help his wife in her chores, but unbeknownst to the magician, Ojo doctors the doll's brains. In the confusion that erupts as the Powder of Life performs its miracle, Margolotte and Unc Nunkie are turned into marble statues and the Patchwork Girl is brought to life quite unfit to ever be a servant. To restore life to the two hapless victims, Ojo undertakes a quest to find the ingredients for an antidote to the enchantment, accompanied by the Patchwork Girl and the Glass Cat, another creation of Dr. Pipt. A series of adventures ensue, as they brave new challenges and meet new and amazing peoples and lands in their hunt for the magical ingredients. Through the trials of this grand quest Ojo learns that he is no longer presumed to be ill-fated by circumstance of birth, and is known henceforth as Ojo the Lucky.

<http://www.halcyon.com/piglet/bk12des.htm>

YouTube- Patchwork Girl

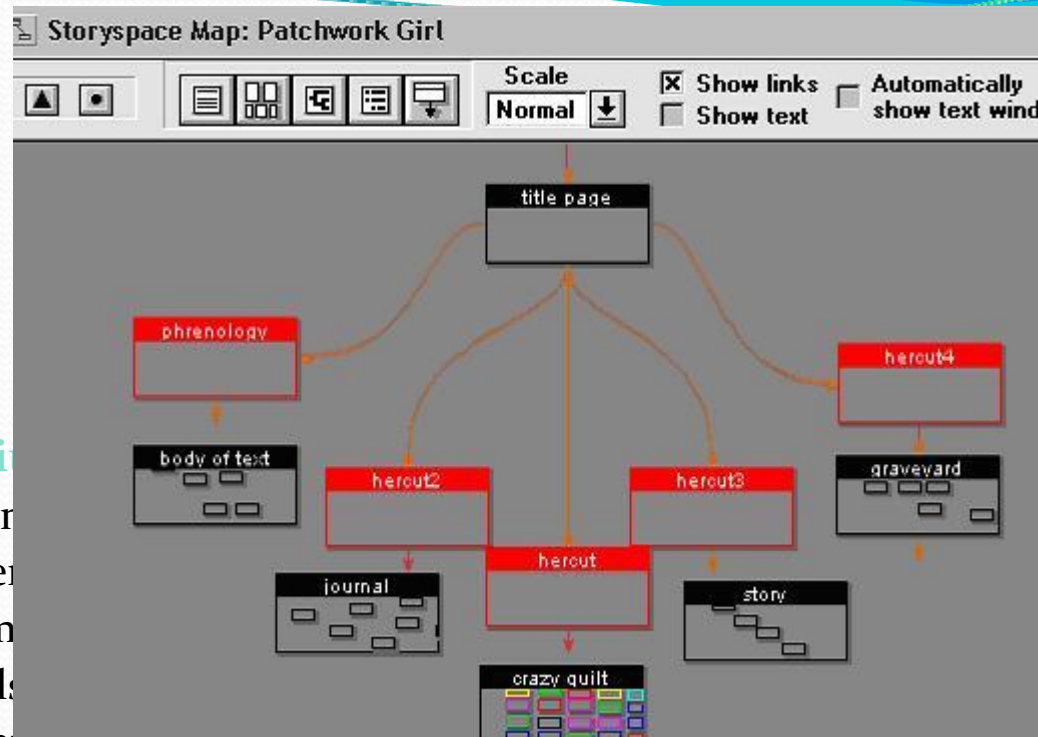
- <http://youtu.be/mZ4MmGycEHI>
 - Band
- <http://youtu.be/yclLuKVHowI>
 - Audition





PWG

- Plot
- What was it about?
 - Basic premise
 - The female protagonist
 - Becomes a patchwork girl
 - Travels around the world
 - Adventures in America
 - Dispersed into parts



Themes/Issues:

- **Writing and Identity**
- Identity is written by being created or “stitched” rather than being something that you are born with. Identity becomes an effect of technology (writing as a technology).
- **Scars**
- Literal and Metaphoric. Every writing, print or electric, has gaps and makes leaps. Normally they are covered with transitional phrases, in hypertext they are left uncovered. Each link is a leap in the text that both indicates a gap and offers a suture: the link brings together what it holds apart.
- **Community**
- Like identity, community is based on connections rather than bloodlines, stitched from friendship rather than family.
- **Immortality**
- The desire to use technology to create life, better life, life that will not die. (the living dead).

(Davis)

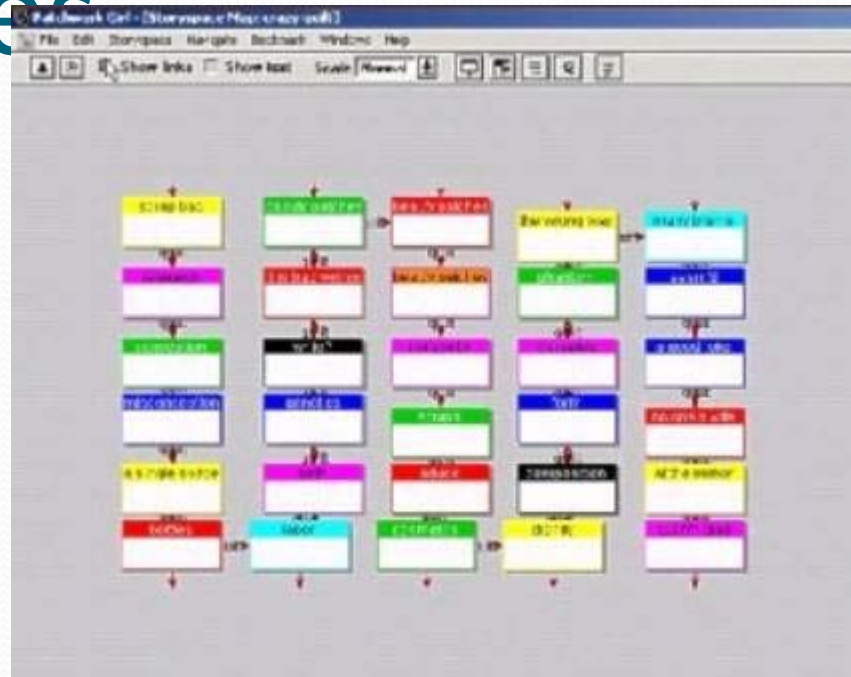


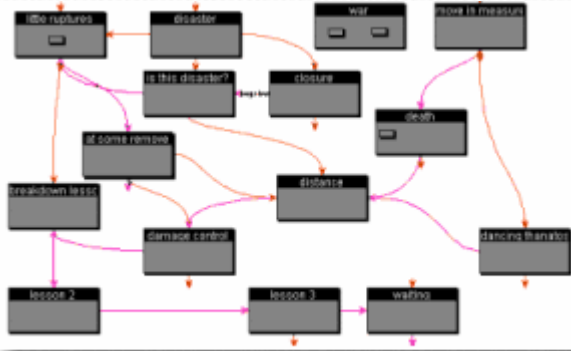
Themes/Issues continued

- Identity
- Self
- Gender
- Birth
- Death
- Resurrection
- Authorship
- Writing
- Originality
- Time
- Sexuality
- Bodies



PWG Quotes





Post Modern literary theory



Jackson Quotes

- “I'm interested in the slippery territory between the self and the outside world.” (Nunes)
- “I like digression and interruptions and the clash of styles and voices. I like weirdo devices.”







More

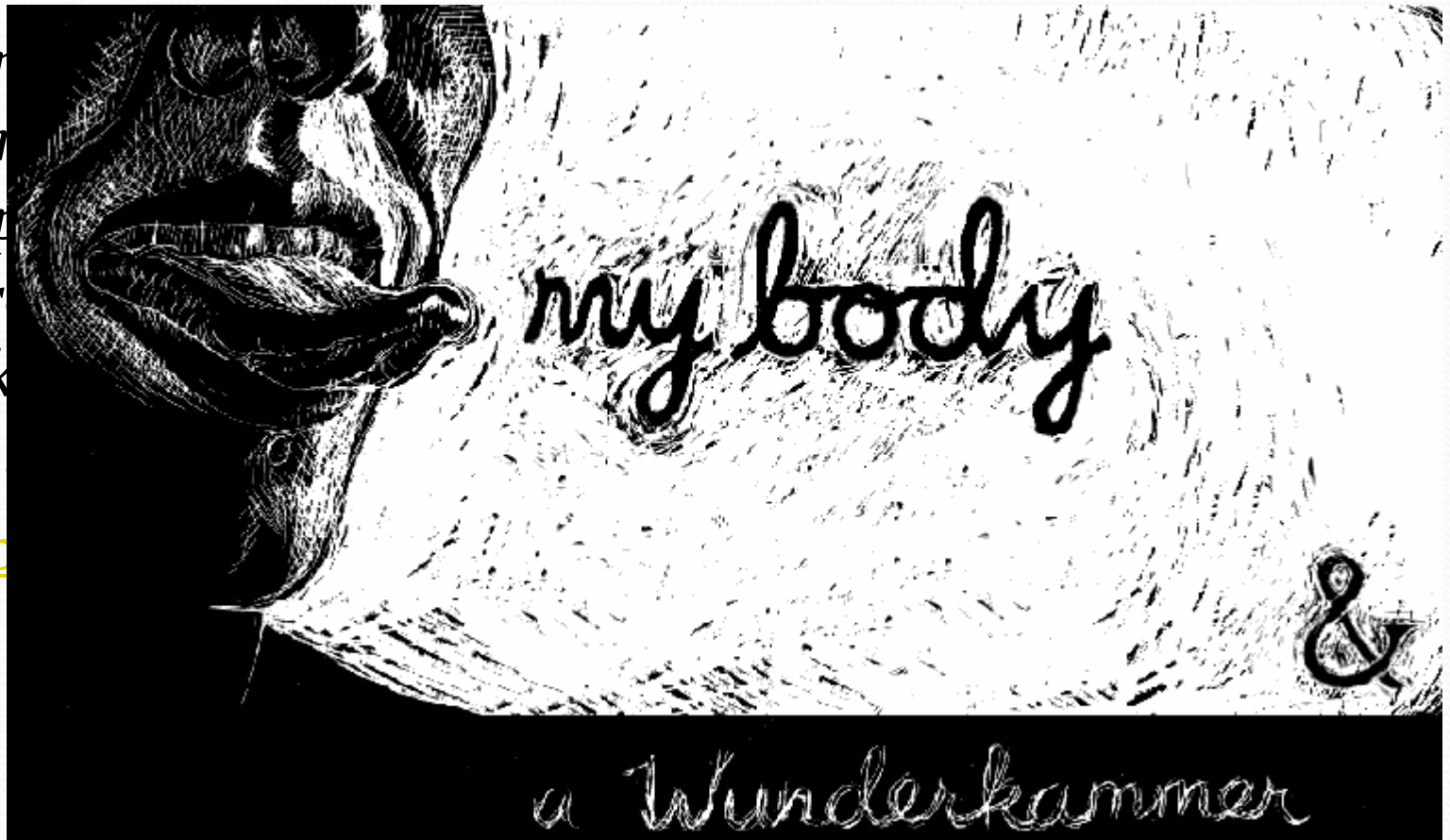
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- <http://scholars.nus.edu.sg/cpace/ht/pg/pgov.html>
- <http://www.tattoohighway.org/8/sjinterview.html>
- [http://hubpages.com/hub/Tattoo Ideas Words Shelley Jackson SKIN](http://hubpages.com/hub/Tattoo_Ideas_Words_Shelley_Jackson_SKIN)
- <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum/papers/jackson.html#top>
- <http://www.cyberartsweb.org/cpace/ht/pg/pgmain.html>
- <http://www.egs.edu/faculty/shelleyjackson.html>
- [http://www.pifmagazine.com/vol32/b s jackson.shtml](http://www.pifmagazine.com/vol32/b_s_jackson.shtml)
- <http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~davis/crs/331/PWG.htm>
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- [http://www.guernicamag.com/fiction/253/the cats meow/](http://www.guernicamag.com/fiction/253/the_cats_meow/)
- <http://www.randomhouse.com/boldtype/o402/jackson/interview.html>

FIELD GUIDE TO SHELLEY JACKSON

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