Movie: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1994)

Synopsis: On May 6, 1816, Mary Godwin, Percy Shelley, Lord Byron, Claire Clairmont, and a young physician named John William Polidori rented a villa in Cologny, Switzerland. This summer meeting produced two of the most eminent characters in English literature. An "incessant rain" confined the group in the house for days, which spawned discussions on varied topics, including galvanism and the reanimation of dead matter. The company also amused themselves by reading German ghost stories, prompting Byron to suggest they each write their own supernatural tale. Shortly after, the iconic monsters from Frankenstein (Shelly) and The Vampyre, a Tale (Polidori) were conceived.

How it relates to the field of psychiatry

　　　　Two hundred years ago on June 6, 1816, Mary Shelley had a waking dream of her creation: Frankenstein's monster. A biographical analysis of Mary Shelley frames *Frankenstein* as a work of sublimation, with each character representing a major archetype of the author's collective unconscious (Table 1).

Table 1. Characters in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein representing archetypes of Jung's Collective Unconscious		
Character	**Jungian Archetype**	**Description**
Frankenstein's Monster	Shadow	The Shadow houses our most base and primal instincts like an author's desire to kill her father/creator.
Robert Walton (narrator)	Self	Representing the unification of the conscious and unconscious, the Self is represented by Walton, the narrator of the story.
The Syzygy (divine couple): Victor & Elizabeth		
Victor Frankenstein	Animus	The Animus is the male image in the female (Shelley's) psyche. For the female author, Victor plays a more prominent role than Elizabeth.
Elizabeth Lavenza	Anima	The Anima is a feminine image in the male psyche and is the weaker character for the female author.

Key Words: Mary Shelley, Frankenstein, Jung, archetype, shadow, self, syzygy, animus, anima