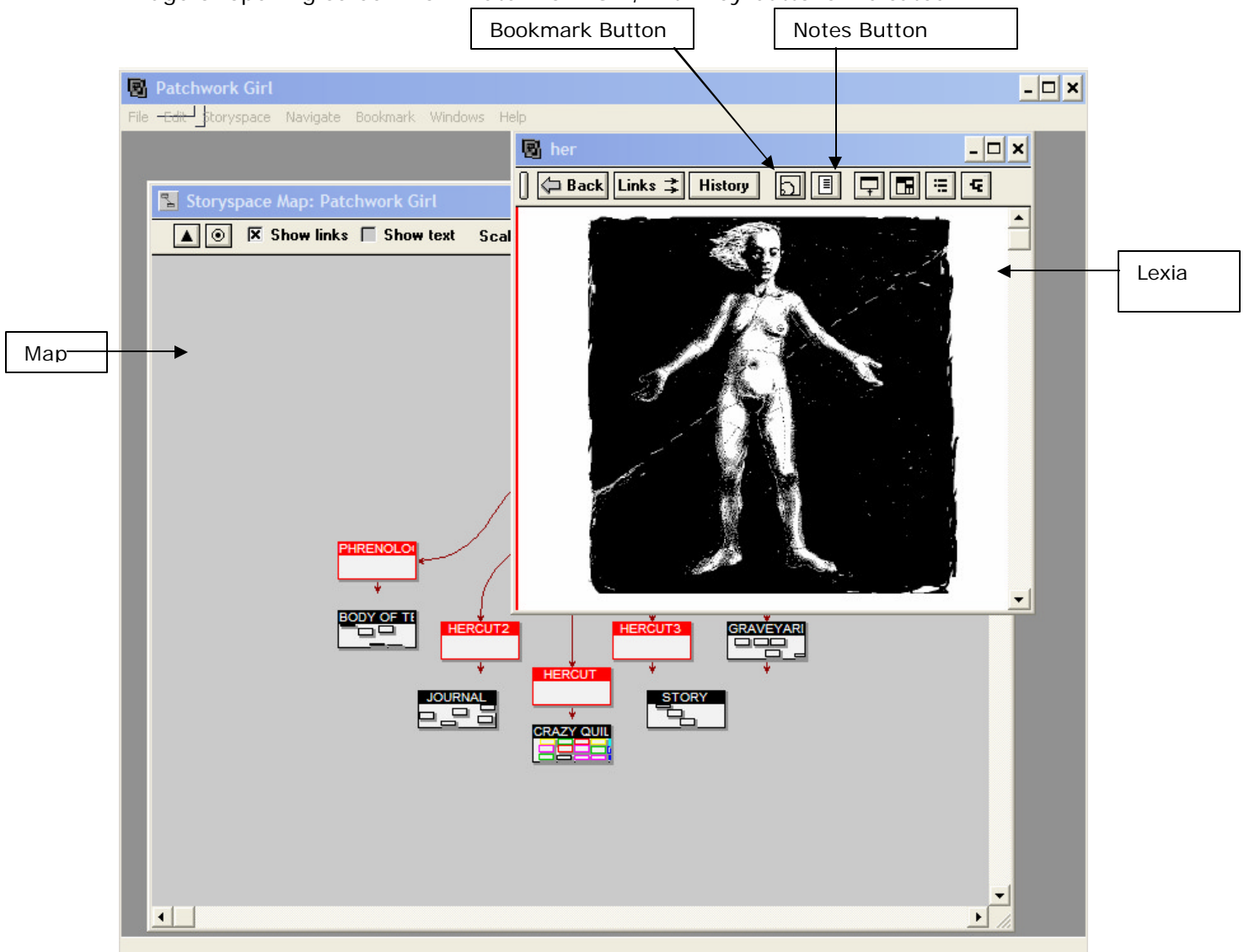


# English 213: Modern and Postmodern Literature

## *Patchwork Girl* Reading Guide

Although Shelley Jackson's *Patchwork Girl* is hypertextual, navigating through the novel differs from reading a Web page. You can access lexias—individual screens of text or image—by clicking on words or images, or you can use the map to go to selected lexias. Note that linked words and images appear without the underlining we're used to seeing on the Web. You may have to click more than one word to view a linked lexia. If more than one lexia can be linked to from the text you have clicked, a box indicating your choices will appear. If you want to see all lexias linked to the lexia you're viewing, click the "Links" button. If you want to make bookmark or make notes on a particular page, use the bookmark or notes button.

Image of opening screen from *Patchwork Girl*, with key buttons indicated:



It's imperative to keep notes as you read, either within the novel itself or in a separate document. Also keep track of your reading path; we will all proceed through the novel differently, and your path will influence how you construct meaning from the text. Hence, it's important to remember the titles of the lexias you have read and the order in which you have read them.

Consider the following issues and note any questions you have about the text:

- The subject of the novel: What do you think *Patchwork Girl* is about and why?
- The way Jackson uses source material: What sources does she use and why?
- The similarities and differences between *Patchwork Girl* and other course texts
- The connection between the lexias you have read and between various sections: Does any sort of logic govern the flow from one lexia or section to the next?
- The relationship between *Patchwork Girl* and print fiction: Does the text function in a manner anticipated by Coover?
- Jackson's role as an author: To what extent is she the author of *Patchwork Girl*?
- Your role as a reader; Landow argues that "*Patchwork Girl* makes us all into Frankenstein-readers stitching together narrative, gender, and identity." Do you agree with him? Why or why not?
- The connection between the body and text
- The relationship between creator and creation
- Issues of identity: What sort of identity do the *Patchwork Girl*'s parts make up? What is the relationship between writing and identity?
- Boundaries between male and female, human and animal or monster