# English 498: adapting texts Patchwork Girl Reading Guide

## Installing Patchwork Girl

Go to the course "Texts" page and click the link to Jackson's novel under "Hypertext." You'll be prompted to log on with your UW Net ID and password. "Accept" the copyright rules. Click on the "Patchwork Girl" folder, then click the correct filename to download the PC or Mac file to your desktop. Double-click to open the ZIP or Stuff file. PC users should create a folder called "Patchwork Girl" to which they can extract unzipped files. Mac users will see a folder called "Patchwork Girl" once they open the Stuff file.

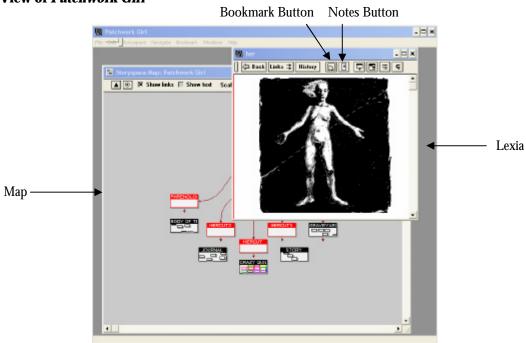
## Reading patchwork Girl

On a PC: In the "Patchwork Girl" folder, double-click on the Storyspace Reader once the program opens, choose "File," "Open" and "PATCHW.SSP" to open Patchwork Girl.

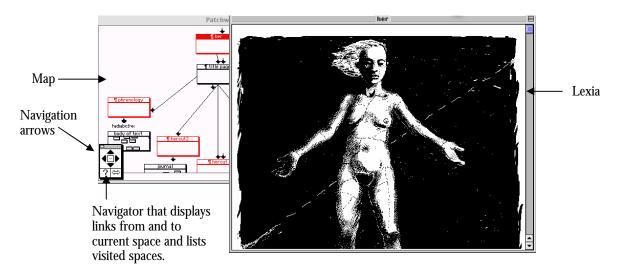
On a Mac: In the "Patchwork Girl" folder, click on the Patchwork Girl Patchwork Girl icon to open the novel.

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 bookmark or make notes on a particular page, use the bookmark or notes button. **Please read 100-120 lexias**.

#### PC View of Patchwork Girl



#### Mac View of Patchwork Girl



### Understanding Patchwork Girl

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 *Frankenstein*: How is Jackson expanding, reworking, or critiquing elements of Shelley's novel and/or the circumstances surrounding its composition?
- The way Jackson uses other sources: What other texts does she "weave" into her narrative and why?
- The similarities and differences between Patchwork Girl and other adaptations of Frankenstein.
- 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?
- Jackson's role as an author: To what extent is she the author of *Patchwork Girl*?
- Your role as a reader: How do you make meaning from the "pieces" of the novel? How are you an author of the text?
- The relationship between creator and creation.
- Issues of identity: What sort of "whole" identity do the Patchwork Girl's parts make up?
- The relationship between writing and identity.