



Answer the questions below.

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"And yet this extraordinary branch of knowledge has never been sought as an end, and systematically, by modern investigators until I took it up! . . . I was the first man to take up this question armed with antiseptic surgery, and with a really scientific knowledge of the laws of growth. Yet one would imagine it must have been practised in secret before. Such creatures as the Siamese Twins — And in the vaults of the Inquisition. No doubt their chief aim was artistic torture, but some at least of the inquisitors must have had a touch of scientific curiosity."¹

This passage comes from H. G. Wells's 1896 novel *The Island of Doctor Moreau*. Dr. Moreau is a vivisector who uses his abilities to cut apart and reassemble living creatures to create an island of monsters, part human and part animal. In this passage, Moreau explains to the narrator how and why he created his monsters.

What societal fears is H. G. Wells playing to with this statement? (Hint: Think about people's fears after the scientific and Industrial revolutions.)

doctor Moreau was playing God created monsters that were part humans and part animals

Dr. Moreau is taking science into unexplored territory, something people greatly feared after the scientific and Industrial revolutions. People worried that scientists were interfering with the natural order, playing God, and would overreach themselves.

What "mad scientist" stereotype does H. G. Wells employ here?

he was an obsessed mad scientist

Moreau is the stereotypical mad scientist who is obsessed with gaining knowledge, even if what he's doing horrifies other people.

How does Dr. Moreau's use of the words "artistic torture" characterize him?

it characterizes him as a killer who tortured human and animals in the process of making monsters. he was modifying psychology of people and animals.

Moreau is aware that what he's doing is torture, just as the Inquisitors tortured their victims, but he doesn't care. Scientific advancement is the ultimate goal, and he's morally detached from what he's doing.