

Anne-Laure Francois "A Lesson in the True Necessities and Means of Life: Louisa's Children as Wise Seers of the Sublime in Everyday Life."

Louisa wanted to save Faust through the death of another character - Gladys, a child (A Modern Metistopheles)

"The Cross on the Old Church Tower" 1857 Saturday Evening Gazette \$10 republished 1864 -- published while Lizzie was ill.

More in the vein of Flower Fables - allegorical Faustian tale.

Jamie, Bess and Walter (Faust-like character) - Jamie saves Walter (he finds a family and becomes a sentimental writer).

The beauty of life as a means of transcending to the sublime. Beauty and Sublime are two different things.

story of religious conversion -- Jamie and Bess are poor but he is very kind and makes the most of what he has. Very industrious. He is an invalid (sounds just like Lizzie), makes wooden toys, working and looking out the window

Walter will be taught humility through kindness. Chance meeting by fate - they live in the same building.

Same opening scene in this story and A Modern Methisopheles.

Walter encountered the sublime, something he cannot completely comprehend. Upon meeting Jamie he is lifted out of himself. A spiritual elevation.

Definition of sublime: of such excellence, grandeur, or beauty as to inspire great admiration or awe; elevate to a high degree of moral or spiritual purity or excellence. Appreciating the sublime means you can transcend yourself.

Jamie completely lives in his mind, his spirit, -- just like Lizzie.

Walter has a troubled spirit that is soothed by Jamie's childlike faith. Walter has an epiphany - epitomized by light.

Jamie is an angel illuminated by the light coming through the window. He will be Walter's beacon.

No historical time but a cycle of seasons. We don't know where the story takes place.

Story is allegorical and sublime.

Constant religious imagery. Jamie dies but a white rose blooms in his room as a symbol of his spirit continuing. A sign of purity. A sign of his influence that he leaves behind.

Jamie withers physically so he can blossom spiritually.

Bread/Eucharist reference

Last supper - they have a good meal together and then he dies.

Jamie is innocent and experienced. A figure of reconciliation and sacrifice. Jamie is Walter's little Providence.

Religion is embodied in Jamie rather than being abstract (to Walter).

Walter keeps coming back to Jamie in the grave for rejuvenation.

Jamie's description of the cross on the Church - turns to gold in the sun (alchemy and astronomy - relates to Faust).

Walter (Faust) wants knowledge rather than spiritual revelation.

Jamie's life is a total mystery to Walter.

Walter is a very masculine character at the beginning. Jamie gets after him for not being happy with what he has. In his rebirth, Walter loses some of those robust qualities. He wanted to love Bess but she wanted someone else. In showing the change he acts as a brother to her rather taking revenge.

ambiguity of Jamie's gender identity because of his actions and perhaps what he died of, possibly consumption, normally a feminine disease.

Walter is totally physical at the beginning (Jamie is not a totally physical character - not complete) but morally changed at the end.

Louisa saw the pen as a tool to transform. A very complete story in its elements.

Tradition of the sublime by Edmund Burke

She sees writing as experimentation. The wide berth of her reading shows in this story.

Mixing of sublime and grotesque reveals real life. - Victor Hugo

Many references to darkness with regards to Walter to emphasize Jamie's light.

Jamie influenced Walter in his writing, wrote books of love.