

Solution to A Past World: The year: 1816. The title: The Year Without a Summer

In 1815, the volcano Mount Tambora in Indonesia erupted - the largest volcanic eruption in human history, causing the sun to be blocked out and resulting in cold weather, crop failures, famine and disease worldwide for over a year. In 1816, while vacationing at the Villa Diodati near Lake Geneva in Switzerland, Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Shelley and John Polidori, tiring of the cold wet summer and bored from sitting around inside, challenged each other to write a horror story. Out of that challenge came:

Darkness, a poem of the apocalypse by Lord Byron.

Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus, by Mary Shelley.

The Vampyre, by John Polidori, the first vampire story and the inspiration for Dracula.

All of the images are related to the effects of the eruption of Mount Tambora and the events associated with 1816, even though some are from later years.

The title, A Past World, is from Byron's poem, Darkness. The line reads, 'the pall of a past world...'

Images:

1. A painting of the eruption of Mount Tambora in 1815 showing the ash and smoke spewing into the atmosphere, blocking out the sun and causing brilliant red sunsets.
2. Prometheus = Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus, by Mary Shelley.
3. The New Monthly Magazine & Universal Register Vol. 1, No. 63, where The Vampyre was first published. You can read this story here: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/6087/6087-h/6087-h.htm>
4. Photo, "Cut by Alfred Roberts, son of..." Using his age and the date, you can narrow your search and find Alfred on Find A Grave where it says, "son of Calvin". Then find Calvin on Find A Grave where the picture of this stone shows the inscription to Reuben Whitten who, during the "Cold Year of 1816 Raised 40 Bushels of Wheat on this Land which Kept His Family and Neighbors from Starvation."
5. Pisces/ Dr. Who/ Scorpio = Season 12 (Pisces), episode 8 (Scorpio) of Dr. Who, is titled "The Haunting of Villa Diodati" and takes place around the vacationing authors in 1816.
6. Ice skater in the summer (trees are green with leaves) = ice formed on lakes in the summer of 1816.
7. ...dreams, stars, space, earth, air, no day = the last words of the first 6 lines of 'Darkness' by Lord Byron.
8. Mary Shelley's handwritten draft of Frankenstein with, "I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature then it breathed hard and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs"
9. Cholera warning = there were cholera outbreaks in 1816 and 1817.
10. 1800.1.14.4 + Jack Nicholson in The Shining = Eighteen Hundred AND (1-14-4) Froze to Death.
11. Newspaper article about snow falling in Baltimore, MD in June of 1816.
12. The article is shown reversed because there was "backwards weather" or winter during the summer.
13. A man on a pedal-less bicycle = this early "Dandy Horse" was invented by Karl Drais in 1817 after so many horses died during 1816, as a way for people to get around without them. Story here: <https://www.treehugger.com/how-eruption-mount-tambora-years-ago-led-invention-bicycle-4855936>
14. The background image is a painting from 1816 showing a gray and sunless scene.

The year 1816 had many names, including:

The Year Without a Summer

Eighteen Hundred and Froze to Death

Eighteen Hundred and Starved to Death

The Poverty Year

The Summer that Never Was

I hope you all had fun with this hunt. My next hunt will be posted during the last week of January.

Thanks to you all!