

Doppelgänger (dō.pl.gəng.ur) noun 1. A person exactly like another; a double. 2. A wraith, especially of a person not yet dead. Also spelled doubleganger. (G.)

of doppelgangers in the reference section of the library (Kadatoomna)
After looking through four compendiums on the supernatural and witch craft, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and finding only one very brief definition, I turned to my own 1950 edition Funk & Wagnalls and found the above definition. *Victory* Man Myth & Magic, a twenty some volume reference work dealing in the occult, had a relatively long article on "doubles", that brought up the concept of the projection of one's self in spirit form, and presented scientific evidence for the phenomenon. A doctor weighed people who were about to die and noticed a weight gain of two-and-one-half ounces at death when the soul, or spiritual self returned. He also conducted experiments on persons who claimed the ability of self-projection, and found similar weight gains and losses. Scientific evidence aside, the concept of another self contained in our outward physical person and psyche is a favorite theme, or device, in the literature we have been studying this semester involved with evil in the Twentieth century. In only one of the works we have read, All Hallows Eve, is there a really strict representation of the phenomenon; the others that take up a theme of duality in man, and transformation from one form to another, elaborate on the basic idea of the doppelganger, but are not hard and fast orthodox presentations of the doppelganger. *Attitudes above ref.* In a loose sense, however, creations that manifest a persons spirit, or intense identification with another person, can be examined as containing the expanded concept of the doppelganger. (I point this distinction out now to escape being accused of laboring under a unconceived of misconception.)

concept
Taking Northrop Frye's suggestion, I feel it might be a good idea here to spend a paragraph looking at possible "archetypes" of the doppelganger before discussing its manifestations in ~~more~~ familiar recent literature. The minor Roman deity Janus, although unimportant in mythology, with his two identical faces representing old and new, or good and bad, is a sort of a self-contained doppelganger. Zeus, or Jupiter, in at least two instances I can think of, uses the doppelganger stratagem to advance his amorous goals by taking the form of golden rain, or that of a bull. Adonis gets in trouble looking at his double in a pond. ~~Funk & Wagnalls definition implies mortality, we can look to classical gods to find some of the earliest examples of the doppelganger concept in action.~~ Moving closer to the present we find the doppelganger extended to be inclusive of animate creations that reflect the creator. The Pinocchio tale entails a rudimentary form of self projection on the part of the puppet maker who conceives an animate moralistic little wooden creature. Puck in A Midsummer's Night Dream, assumes many different forms and in his role as a servant can be, in a less than strict way, a projection of the whims of Oberon. In this play the character Bottom hardly becomes a wraith, but the idea essential to the concept of a doppelganger or transformation, is played with. In ~~Keats~~ Keats' Lamia Lycius' love passively changes forms, even though quite dissimilar, and then later changes herself into a Serpent at the wedding. Coleridge provides a type of evil double for Cristabel (also the title of the poem) in the form of Geraldine. It is possible that Wordsworth was toying with the idea of meeting himself, or his ideal, in Resolution and Independence. The Faust Legends contains some transformations on the part of the doctor, but these changes involve, and are concerned with, the idea of conjuring others into other forms, and the doctor never meets his double. The Old Man is a forewarning symbol offering the possibility of grace and could possibly be Faustus' doppelganger. Moving to the more contemp-