Evil is one of the main sources of literature. Maybe one of the reasons of this, eventually it catches us like death. Sooner or later all of us face with evil. Sometimes we encounter with evil. We cannot predict when it comes and what it takes. Sometimes we become evil and we cannot understand when we become part of it and how it controls us. Evil is part of human nature like love, goodness, and other feelings. We may not love villains in our lives, but this situation often changes in literature. There would not be great literature without great villains. Where would Harry be without Voldemort? He would be raised by his parents and there would be nothing to write about. When we think about Shakespeare’s play Othello, where would be Othello without Iago? He would have happy life with Desdemona, and he would not lose his pride. There are many examples like that, and all of those heroes would be much happier and more productive members of society, but their stories would be less interesting. We would not find any difference between common man and hero. When there is nothing to glorify with hero, no one cares about having good manners like heroes and literature would lose its popularity. Of course, villains are not always the most admirable characters, but they give value to stories. Punch line of the literary works start after villains show up. Their clear power and their refusal of social norms make stories happen. If everyone was always good and honest all the time, probably literature wouldn’t even exist. Because evil is there with love, hate, friendship, death and beauty. Seduction, gossip, lies… All of them are familiar to us. They are tools of evil which exploit our empathy to its advantage and all of us experience one of them in our inner self. That’s why in literature evil has a great place. When we read a novel, unconsciously we search for evil to find something from life.

Traditionally villains have been the antagonists in literature. For example, in Beowulf, Grendel and his mother stood against Beowulf and they become a test for the hero to show his greatness, morality and power. No one thinks on them because they are used as tool for the good ones. In a way, villains are abused to praise heroes. Let us think about real life and put Grendel in real life. Probably Grendel would be a child who is not accepted by his father and he is raised by her mother with full of hatred towards his father. Because in the story king has an affair with Grendel’s mother and then he forgets about the child. Can we see this kind of
relationships in real life? Witch wants to have King’s power and his properties; she has a son from him, but King doesn’t accept the son. Then son is raised as monster which is full of anger with King and what King has. If we do not think Grendel in this way, Grendel seems like villain and it seems fair to kill monster that eat people in the town. Reader thinks that he is evil. However, Grendel’s acts as an unexpected child in real life are understandable and he seems like a victim not a villain.

Beside of Grendel, her mother is also can be an example. After Beowulf kills Grendel, he must defeat Grendel's Mother, who is some sort of sea monster and witch. She wants to take revenge for her son's death, and she uses her magical power to seduce Beowulf. She plans to have son and use him as a revenge tool. It seems fair enough to kill her when it is looked by the hero’s side. However, from her side, it seems different. Is it fair to blame a mother for wanting to kill her son’s murderer? As a loving mom she does not seem evil so much. But in the poem, she is used as seductive person who cause hero’s fall. This story gives us a message that you can be a good person, but evil can take advantage of you. Literature use villain to warn people and justify heroes’ faults.

Another example that we can examine is Shelly’s Frankenstein. It is true that the monster is the murderer in the novel. Monster is created as villain in the novel, but it is Doctor Frankenstein who decided to play God and build a creature in his own image without thought to the possible disasters. Through the novel he is portrait as a tragic figure, but he is the actual villain. Because of his pride, which is one of the tools of evil, he makes mistake and creates a monster. However, most of the readers do not think on his fault because novel focuses on monster Frankenstein’s anger and consequences of this. This monster is used to cover so-called protagonist’s faults. As we understand form those examples, we can say that evil may not always evil. Just as good may not always good as we think. When we think on villains, we may see that they are just a tool to polish protagonist in literature.