

CCSS ELA 9-12 Reading, Writing,  
Speaking & Listening

# Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Interactive Layered Flip Book

Born in 1797 to **William Godwin** (political philosopher and novelist) and **Mary Wollstonecraft** (early women's rights activist). Her **mother died** 10 days after Mary was born. Shelley learned about her mother only through writings her mother left behind, including *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) which advocated that women should have the same educational opportunities and rights in society as men. Avid reader and scholar.



Ran away with **Percy Bysshe Shelley** when she was 16. At the time P.B. Shelley was married and a student of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. He seduced Mary after his wife died. Mary was 18 (P.B. Shelley's first wife was 16 when they married). Mary Shelley listened intently to her husband's intellectual conversations with others.

On a visit in Switzerland with P.B. to Lord Byron, she was challenged to write a story for a **contest** during a stormy night. She had heard Byron and Shelley discussing "the nature of the principle of life and whether there was any chance of its ever being discovered." From this conversation, she had the "**waking dream**" which eventually became the novel *Frankenstein*.

Mary Shelley wrote and published the novel in the year when she was **19**. She published the novel *Frankenstein*, **anonymously**, and many assumed it was the work of her husband.



Mary Shelley, Historical Context, The Enlightenment  
Elements of Gothic Literature

Chapters 22-24 and Walton's Letters Continue

Chapters 13-21

Chapters 6-12

Chapters 1-5

The Letters

Themes, Symbols, and Antithesis

Characters



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On a visit in Switzerland with P.B. to see Lord Byron, she was challenged to write a story for a contest during horrible weather. She had heard Byron and Shelley discussing "the nature of the principle of life and whether there was any chance of its ever being discovered." From this conversation, she had the "waking dream" which eventually became the novel *Frankenstein*.

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ary Tradition came to be in part from the Gothic architecture placed towers, and high stained-glass windows were intended

ings...  
ings of small deformed creatures squatting at the corners and crevices  
drals—were supposed to ward off evil spirits, but they often look more  
rits themselves.

rgoyle as a mascot of Gothic, and you will get an idea of the kind of  
ortion of reality that Gothic represents.  
were peering into the darkness at the supernatural.  
Gothic writer saw the individual, they saw the potential of evil.  
y's novel

- Settings that feature**
- ☐ Dark, castles
  - ☐ Isolating, grandiose, mountainous
- Characters that are**
- ☐ Male—insane
  - ☐ Female—beautiful and dead (or dying)

Frankenstein is generally categorized as a **Gothic novel**, a genre of fiction that uses gloomy settings and supernatural events to create an atmosphere of mystery and terror. Shelley adds to her development of the plot the use of **psychological realism**, delving into the psyches of the characters in an attempt to explain why they react as they do and what drives them to make their decisions.

- ☐ Plots that include
- ☐ Murder
  - ☐ Live burials
  - ☐ Physical and mental torture
  - ☐ Retribution from beyond the grave



Gargoyle



Structure and Point of View

- ☐ Frame Story
- ☐ Epistolary—carried by letters

## Mary Shelley, Historical Context, The Enlightenment

88. What are the marriage plans? How does Victor prepare for what he fears will happen?

89. How do Victor and Elizabeth get to Evian and why do they stop there?

90. How does the Creature respond?

91. What happens when Victor returns to Geneva? What happens to Victor's father? What happens

92. What happens during Victor's pursuit of the Creature? Where do they go? What does the Creature

93. What does Victor ask Walton to do? What does he warn Walton about the Creature?

32. What is waiting  
33. Who is Justine  
religion is Justine?

34. Who is William

35. What does Victor

36. When does Victor

37. What is waiting for Victor when he returns to his apartment? What news does his father have for him? And what is his father's name? How does Victor respond?

38. How long has Victor been away from home? What happens the night he returns to Geneva? How does he respond?

39. Whom does Victor see that night? When was the last time they saw each other? How long ago was that?

40. What does Victor now believe happened to William? What does Victor assume about the nature of the creature?

41. Who has been identified as the murderer, and on what evidence? How does Victor respond to this news? Why doesn't he say anything about the real murderer?

42. What happens at Justine's trial? How does Victor respond?

43. The next day, why does Justine say she has confessed to the murder of William? How does Victor respond to Justine's situation and to Elizabeth's anguish?

## Chapters 22-24 and Walton's Letters Continue

## Chapters 6-12

## Elements of Gothic Literature

11. What is the story of the man's mother's responsibilities does he feel they had to

12. Who is Elizabeth Lavenza and what is her name yet? Do we know his family

13. Who is Henry Clerval and what is his

14. How does Victor characterize the int

15. Who is Cornelius Agrippa and how does Victor comment on that response?

16. What sort of science ("Natural Philosophy") would a modern scientist respond

65. What else does the creature read and what does he learn from it?

66. What does the creature hope will happen when he talks to De Lacey? What actually happens?

Ch 16-18

67. What event happens when the creature is near Geneva? Who is the boy? Who is the woman?

68. What does the creature demand from Victor?

## Chapters 13-21

17. What happens when Victor sees an oak tree destroyed by lightning and hears an explanation? What does Victor then begin to study?

18. Who or what does he credit for this change in direction? Who or what does he blame for his "utter and terrible destruction"?

19. What happens to Elizabeth and to Victor's mother as a result of Elizabeth's scarlet fever? How does this compare with the mother's early history?

20. Why does Victor's father send him to the University of Ingolstadt? How old is Victor then? (Ingolstadt is in southern Germany, in Bavaria, on the Danube, 43 miles north of Munich. The university founded there in 1472 moved to Landshut in 1802 and to Munich in 1826.)

21. What does Victor learn from M. Krempe? How does Victor respond to him, and on what grounds? Is this a good basis for making such a decision?

## Chapters 1-5

**Robert Walton**- Ship captain who wants to find a route to the North Pole and decides to record Victor's story as Victor relates it to him.

**Margaret Seville**- Robert Walton's sister to whom he addresses his letters.  
**Victor Frankenstein**- Rescued from the ice by Robert Walton. Obsessed with natural science and electricity. He becomes obsessed with creating life through experiments.

**Alfonse Frankenstein**- Victor Frankenstein's father. He married a woman who was rich. He was friends with M. Beaufort, and upon her death, he lost his fortune.

**Caroline Beaufort**- Victor Frankenstein's mother. Her father had died, she married Alfonse for protection. She was very young and naive.

**Elizabeth LaVenza**- An orphan Caroline found in Italy. Elizabeth was very beautiful. It was always assumed Elizabeth and Victor would marry.

**Henry Clerval**- Victor's best friend. Son of a Genovese merchant. He was more interested in the arts and beauty than in science.

**M. Krempe**- Professor of natural philosophy whom Victor held in high regard but had repulsive manners.

**M. Waldman**- Professor of natural philosophy whom Victor liked and respected. He was gentle and good-natured.

**University of Ingolstadt**- Where Victor went to school.

**Creature**- Created by Victor Frankenstein from different body parts. It is ugly and inspires fear in those who see him.

**Ernest Frankenstein**- Victor's younger brother. Younger than Victor.

**William Frankenstein**- Victor's youngest brother. He is murdered by the Creature. The value of the locket he wore around his neck.

**Justine Moritz**- A girl brought into the Frankenstein household. She was accused, tried, convicted, and executed for the murder of William.

**Old Man**- One of the cottagers the monster watches. Father of Agatha. He is blind.

**Agatha**- Young girl in the cottage. She tends the garden and does the housework.

**Felix**- Young man in the cottage. He chopped wood, fixed up the house, and was Safie's love interest.

**Safie**- An Arabian who comes to live at the cottage. She doesn't speak English. Felix begins teaching her his language and she begins to speak and read as Safie learns.

### Themes to Consider...

For each theme, provide a specific example from the play in which it occurs.

**Consequences of irresponsibility in the pursuit of knowledge:**

Example:

**Consequences of pride:**

Example:

**Consequences of society's rejection of someone who is undervalued:**

Example:

**Destructive power of revenge:**

Example:

**Parent-child conflicts and responsibilities:**

Example:

**Symbols to Look for...**

White/light

Water

Laboratory

Ice

Lightning

Fire

Nature

Eyes

## Themes, Symbols, and Antithesis

## Characters

## The Letters



Frankenstein Study Guide Answer Key

Letters 1-4

1. Who is writ

Robert Walton

2. To whom is

Mrs. Savil

3. Where is it

St. Peters

4. What does

He is pale

self-faught

5. Where is it

Walton is

How much

One more

17. What happens

Victor decides to stu

The man and

What sort of

The man

How much

Walton is

Walton is

On 1- 5

21. What does Victor

Krempie teaches natl

22. Why does Victor?

Rebecca, on the Danu

in 3205.)

Victor's father belie

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Krempie teaches natl

22. Why does Victor?

Rebecca, on the Danu

in 3205.)

Victor's father belie

23. How well does Vi

Victor destroys his st

and animates a corp

24. Will he share the

Victor here.)

Victor keeps his exp

know the secret, but

58. How long has Victor been aw

Victor has been away for six year

39. Whom does Victor see that ni

Victor sees the outline of the mon

40. What does Victor now believe

Victor believes the monster killed

69. How does Victor at first respond to the creature's demand? What response does he expect from the creature

What approach does the creature say he will take?

70. What does the creature say will happen if Victor creates a female for him?

71. What does Victor decide? What does the creature say he will do while Victor is at work?

72. How does Victor appear and respond to his family when he returns home?

73. Why does Victor's father think Victor might not want to marry Elizabeth?

74. Why does Victor want to visit England? What do you make of his talk of slavery?

75. What is the effect of Victor's return to the present?

Ch 9-21

76. What are Celenia's plans for his career?

77. Where does Victor's journey end, and what does he plan to do there? Why is he afraid?

78. Why does Victor change his mind about creating the female? Who watches him as he destroys the female?

79. What happens shortly after Victor destroys the female? How is this similar to what happened after Victor created the Creature?

80. What happens when the Creature visits Victor? What does the Creature promise to do? What does Victor understand that promise to mean?

For each, provide a specific example from the play in which this theme is evident. Give the page number.

Anti-theme: Contrasts of ideas, characters, themes, settings or moods.

Victor's creation

Passion/Reason

Nature's/unnatural

Known/unknown

Outcast/Outrage

Highly Romantic / Romantic

Monstrous/Terrific

Beautiful/Lady

Good/Bad

Light/Dark

Good/Bad

8 CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

8 CUT ALONG DASHED GUIDELINE

Frankenstein Study Themes and Symbols Answer Key

Themes To Consider...

For each theme, provide a specific example from the play in which this theme is evident. Give the page numbers.

Consequences of responsibility in the pursuit of knowledge:

Example:

Victor wants to doom the world of life. Victor is the Modern Prometheus by wanting to give the world forbidden knowledge, eventually results in the destruction of everyone dear to him. Walton wants to reach the North Pole, gets - saving the lives of his crew. Forbidden knowledge power is often the other prisoners' goal.

Consequences of pride:

Example: The theme of hubris is subtly present in Frankenstein, throughout the book. Victor becomes so enticed with ideas of creating and controlling life that he puts aside all things except for his project. He attempts to create life, which is a feat that only God can do - thus placing himself in God's position. Victor's obsession with controlling life and death, done in defiance of his authority and power of God, does what the creature's words do to him: it is a mortal sin. In his obsessive Victor tries to achieve this impossible task of creating perfect life, it is impossible and if it were, only God could do it.

Consequences of society's rejection of someone who is different and tragic:

Example: The creature is rejected by the poor beg in the streets for his appearance, yet is rejected by their able to help Mary Shelley is appealing to the individual conscience of the reader to determine the meaning of the ugly toward the creature. The creature's unmet personality was nurtured by nature. The creature's unique gentleness, innocence, and empathy came from nature. The development of the creature, for example, evoked neighbor and excessive ugliness. The was done to draw attention to the creature and what the creature represents.

Deceptive power of revenge:

Example:

90. How does the Creature respond?

The monster peers and points to Elizabeth's body from outside the window.

91. What happens when Victor returns to Geneva? What happens to Victor's father? What happens to Victor?

Victor returns to Geneva and shortly after, Alphonse dies of heart break. Victor falls into a sadness and weakness which lasts for a few months.

92. What happens during Victor's pursuit of the Creature? Where to they go? What does the Creature do?

Victor sees the monster stow away on a ship bound for Russia. Victor follows the creature into the Arctic Circle with a dog sled.

93. What does Victor ask Walton to do? What does he warn Walton about the Creature?

Victor asks Walton to destroy the creature.

Walton's letter continues

94. Why wouldn't Victor tell Walton the truth?

Victor tells Walton that he must never

95. Why is Walton returning to England?

Walton returns because the voyage is

96. What happens as Walton is writing?

The monster boards the ship and finds

97. What will the Creature do next? How

The creature will take his own life. He is

98. Do we see the Creature die?

No. The monster floats away into the n

99. What does the Creature do?

The creature is

60. What happens

The creature real

61. How did the C

The De Lacey fam

62. How did Sall

The break in the narrative brings the listener to the present and Victor foreshadows the death of Celenia.

63. What does th

64. What are the

65. Nature and the m

66. What does th

67. What event h

68. What does th

69. How does Vic

70. What does th

81. What happens when Victor goes out in a boat to dispose of the female creature's remains? Where does he end up? What happens when he lands?

82. Who is Mr. Kirwin and how does he treat Victor? What has happened to cause Victor's arrest? What happens to Victor after his arrest?

83. What happens when Victor wakes up? Who is there?

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