



 Prestwick House

Activity Pack

FRANKENSTEIN

BY MARY SHELLEY



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Author's Purpose****Objective:** Understanding the author's purpose**Activity**

Imagine that you are Mary Shelley. Based on the explanation in the introduction, prepare a short speech on your group's topic. Use direct quotations or as much of her wording as possible. Include whatever explanation Shelley offers.

Topics:

- The reason I write
- My husband's influence
- The challenge from Byron
- The influence of the weather
- My view of poets and poetry
- The influence of other ghost stories
- The process of invention and imagination

Name: _____

Date: _____

Letters**Theme**

Objective: Recognizing and understanding the introduction of a thematic idea

Activity

In the second letter, Walton discusses his desire for a friend and his concept of what a friend is. Reread the first page of the second letter and list the words and phrases Walton uses to describe a friend.

Use this list to write a poem about friends (having friends, being a friend, or needing a friend, for example). See Appendix to develop a Definition Poem that begins “A friend is...” or “Friendship is...”.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters I – III**Plot****Objective:** Understanding plot**Activity**

When Victor turns seventeen, his life changes drastically. Referring to one day in this year, Victor says, “This ended a day memorable to me: it decided my future destiny.” List some of the important events that happen in Victor’s life during his first seventeen years. Beside each event, identify a reminder or token he probably has of the event.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters IV – VI**Interpreting the Text**

Objectives: Paraphrasing text
Evaluating truth claims
Relating literature to life

Activity

Each small group should discuss its statement and prepare a speech that includes the following:

- An explanation of the meaning or a paraphrase of the statement
- A detailed response to the statement in terms of agreement, disagreement, or feelings about what Victor says
- An explanation of how the statement relates to real-life or present-day issues, events, or experiences

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters VII – IX**Using a Map**

Objectives: Reading to visualize setting and images
Locating geographical places

Activity

Follow Victor's travels through France and Switzerland on the following map.

- Lake Geneva
- Lausanne—middle of Chapter VII
- Chamounix-Mont Blanc (may be spelled “Chamonix”)—end of Chapter IX
- Jura Mountain
- The Alps—end of Chapter IX

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter X**Text Interpretation and Persuasive Argument**

Objective: Understanding persuasive discourse

Activity

After hearing the eloquent speech of his creature, Victor says, "I weighed the various arguments that he had used, and determined at least to listen to his tale."

Analyze the creature's persuasive arguments by completing the the following chart.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XI – XVI**Writing**

- Objectives:**
- Preparing notes for writing
 - Understanding thematic ideas
 - Identifying important and dramatic moments in the plot
 - Reading with attention to detail
 - Speculating about a character's motivation based on actions and words

Activity

Each group should select a different news assignment from the list that follows. First, plan a newspaper article by taking notes on the following form. Next, write an article based on the information in the notes; you may include pictures, captions, and headlines. Finally, develop information for the interviews based on the information in your notes, using what the character might have said as indicated by the text.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapter XVII

Style

Objective: Understanding the concept of style and recognizing the elements that characterize it

Activity

Read the following selection from *Frankenstein*, and write an essay describing Shelley's writing style. Be sure to include items such as vocabulary usage, tone, and sentence structure.

If you consent, neither you nor any other human being shall ever see us again: I will go to the vast wilds of South America. My food is not that of man; I do not destroy the lamb and the kid to glut my appetite; acorns and berries afford me sufficient nourishment. My companion will be of the same nature as myself, and will be content with the same fare. We shall make our bed of dried leaves; the sun will shine on us as on man, and will ripen our food. The picture I present to you is peaceful and human, and you must feel that you could deny it only in the wantonness of power and cruelty. Pitiless as you have been towards me, I now see compassion in your eyes; let me seize the favourable moment, and persuade you to promise what I do so ardently desire.

Fill in the style chart that follows with short phrases or words that will help you write the essay.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters XVII – End**Writing****Objective:** Responding to a literary text**Activity**

In Chapter XX, Victor destroys the second creature he is forming. He narrates:

As I looked on him [the creature], his countenance expressed the utmost extent of malice and treachery. I thought with a sensation of madness on my promise of creating another like to him, and trembling with passion, tore to pieces the thing on which I was engaged. The wretch saw me destroy the creature on whose future existence he depended for happiness, and, with a howl of devilish despair and revenge, withdrew.

Later, the creature returns, confronts Victor, and asks, "...do you dare destroy my hopes?"

Victor's response is, "Begone! I do break my promise; never will I create another like yourself, equal in deformity and wickedness.

1. In small groups, discuss the following topics:

- Do you approve or disapprove of Victor's decision?
- Do you think what he says to the creature is appropriate or not? Why?
- What you would have done and said?

2. In your groups, write a letter to Victor that expresses your point of view.