

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley

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Frankenstein

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. correctly identify the literal incidents and their proper sequence in the plot.
2. comment on examples of universal experiences found in the novel.
3. discuss the following eight themes as they appear in this novel, and refer to events and incidents in the novel to demonstrate their importance.
 - rejection/alienation of individuals
 - importance of friendship in one's life
 - taking responsibility for one's actions and for the actions of others in the world
 - seeking knowledge for glory's sake
 - obsession/revenge
 - nature
 - depression
 - positive and negative consequences of actions
4. be able to discuss the author's style, the use of foreshadowing, the use of narration, and the characterization process.
5. discuss the extent to which this novel is an example of a Gothic novel.
6. discuss the extent to which this novel is an example of the early Romantic period of literature.
7. discuss the significance of Mary Shelley's title *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*.
8. discuss the significance of religious references in the novel.

Frankenstein

Vocabulary Quiz

(from Chapter XII – Chapter XXIV)

1. deserving respect due to age, character or importance
 - A. articulate
 - B. arbiters
 - C. mortification
 - D. venerable
2. very touching, keenly distressing to the mind or feelings
 - A. poignantly
 - B. conciliating
 - C. exhilarated
 - D. abstained
3. following in time or order
 - A. enraptured
 - B. squalid
 - C. subsequent
 - D. degenerating
4. filled with great delight or happiness
 - A. degenerating
 - B. enraptured
 - C. scion
 - D. dispelling
5. very dirty
 - A. squalid
 - B. declamatory
 - C. cadence
 - D. dispelling
6. done in a quiet, secret, or sly manner
 - A. dote
 - B. scion
 - C. cadence
 - D. stealth
7. untainted; perfect cleanliness
 - A. squalid
 - B. dispelling
 - C. indignation
 - D. unsullied
8. very disagreeable, offensive, hateful
 - A. flagrant
 - B. tenets
 - C. expostulate
 - D. obnoxious
9. to force a person to leave his or her country or home
 - A. emulation
 - B. exile
 - C. harem
 - D. ensuing
10. permanently; something not easily erased
 - A. indelibly
 - B. flagrantly
 - C. obnoxiously
 - D. adversely
11. unfavorable; harmful
 - A. emulation
 - B. consummation
 - C. zealous
 - D. adverse
12. a fault or bad habit
 - A. disquisition
 - B. consternation
 - C. vice
 - D. mediations

Frankenstein

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Mary Shelley entitled her story *Frankenstein or, the Modern Prometheus*. After reviewing the story of Prometheus, who was punished by Zeus because he stole fire from the gods and gave it to mankind, explain what she must have had in mind with this subtitle.
2. Comment on the author's style of writing, mentioning what you believe to be its most salient characteristics. What makes her style so different from the style of other novels?
3. In your mind, whose sins are greater, Victor Frankenstein's or the creature's?
4. What elements in this novel are good examples of Romanticism?
5. To what extent is *Frankenstein* a good example of a Gothic novel?
6. This novel appeared at the very earliest stage in the history of novel writing. What can you point to in the construction of the book to prove this?
7. From comments he has made, state what Victor Frankenstein believes to be his biggest sin.
8. Explain how Shelley presents the traditional Romantic view of nature.
9. Develop the theme of rejection and alienation as it is presented in the novel. Discuss Victor's isolation, the monster's isolation from society, and how the monster isolates Victor.
10. How are both the creature and Victor Frankenstein obsessed by revenge?
11. Make an argument that Victor Frankenstein is the more guilty of the two sinners.
12. Walton feels a need for a friend. Relate his feelings to the theme of friendship as it is developed in this novel.
13. What biblical references does Shelley allude to throughout the novel?
14. In what ways are Victor and Robert Walton similar and different?
15. Shelley makes reference to few mothers throughout the novel, as many are missing or deceased. Discuss the importance of this feature as it relates to the novel.

Frankenstein

Prologue

Vocabulary

allusion – reference to a historically significant person, place, or event
ameliorate – improve, to become or make better
ardent – characterized by strong enthusiasm
capitulated – surrender on terms or conditions
conciliating – reconciling, a winning over
dauntless – without fright or discouragement
diffusing – to pour out, spread
dominion – sphere of influence or control
eccentricities – deviating from a conventional pattern
effusions – a pouring out of unrestrained expressions or feelings
fervent – passionate, glowing
induce – to persuade
inexorable – relentless, unyielding
inuring – to become used to something undesirable by prolonged subjection
paroxysm – a spasm, fit, or sudden outburst
perpetual – never ending, eternal
phenomena – fact, event, or circumstance that can be observed, usually considered extraordinary or remarkable
repose – rest or sleep
requisite – required; a necessity
solicitude – concern, anxious care
tranquilize – to make calm, peaceful, quiet

1. The novel begins with a series of letters in which the narrator of the novel is writing his thoughts and plans to his sister. Where is the narrator going? Why has he chosen to make this voyage? Of what does the narrator dream? What is his goal?

Chapters V – VI

Vocabulary

allude – hint at, mention slightly
antipathy – strong dislike, hate
delineate – describe in words
demoniacal – devilish, very wicked
diffident – lacking in self-confidence
dilatoriness – lateness, not prompt
dissipate – totally scatter, dispel
encomiums – songs of praise, highly complimentary
eulogy – speech or writing in praise of the dead
fetter – restrain, tie up
languor – lack of enthusiasm
lassitude – weariness
palpitation – throbbing, beating rapidly
perambulations – walks or strolls
pertinacity – great persistence, not giving up, continuing, stubbornness
perversity – abnormality, difference
placid – peaceful, quiet
remorse – deep, painful regret
salubrious – healthful
shroud – burial cloth or garments
unremitting – steady
vacillating – unsteady, wavering
vivacity – liveliness

1. Describe the appearance of the creature that Frankenstein creates.

2. How does Dr. Frankenstein feel about his creation? What does he do after the creature comes to life?

9. What does the creature say he discovers about himself? What feelings does this discovery cause?

10. What does the creature plan to do regarding the family? How is he feeling at this point?

9. Why does Victor leave Scotland?

10. What does Victor have to do before he leaves? Why does he feel this is an odious but necessary task?

11. What is the next fearful thing that happens to Victor?

12. What happens to Victor after he survives the storm and makes it to land?
