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Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

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To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

For Frankenstein, we also have these materials:

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To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

Class Record Sheet

25.	24.	23.	22.	21.	20.	19.	18.	17.	16.	15.	14.	13.	12.	11.	10.	9.	8.	7.	6.	5.	4.	3.	2.	1.
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Response Sheet

Name	Section	Date

Author's Introduction

- 1. This section of *Frankenstein* was written by Mary Shelley in 1831, thirteen years after the publication of the novel in 1818. It has been speculated that her husband, the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, actually wrote it, but that has not been proven. The "Author's Introduction" gives us a fine glimpse into Mary Shelley's creative mind. We learn of her childhood daydreams, her imagination, and her writings, in which she says, "I did not make myself the heroine of my tales." Think back on the creative writing you have done during your schooling. Using the "Author's Introduction" as a model, evaluate your own past writing in a one-page essay. Include things like where you think your ideas come from, how imaginative you think your writing is, and how much of your writing is centered on yourself.
- 2. How *Frankenstein* came to be written by Mary Shelley in 1816-1817 is interesting. She had run away to Switzerland with the married man who would later become her husband, Percy Bysshe Shelley. Because they and some friends were housebound because of incessant rain, they decided to have a competition to see who could write the best ghost story. *Frankenstein* won. It is written in a style called "Gothic Horror" or "Gothic Science Fiction." Works referred to as "Gothic" have a style, which has elements of gloom, the grotesque, or the supernatural, and often take place in centuries past. Usually, castles and large country homes are involved. Write a plot for a story in the Gothic style. Be sure to include when and where the story is set, details about the main character and at least three other characters, what the most exciting part of the story would be, and how it ends.
- 3. The author states that, in her novel, she wished "to preserve the truth of the elementary principles of human nature." She cites four other literary works that she feels do this. They are: *The Iliad, The Tempest, Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Paradise Lost*. Look up these works in a dictionary or encyclopedia. List the author of each and write a summary of what the work is about.

Letter I

- 4. The novel opens with a letter from Captain Robert Walton to his sister, Mrs. Saville, in England. Captain Walton is one of many characters who will narrate parts of the novel. We meet him in the frozen North. He is the owner and captain of a ship in Russia, and he is preparing to set out on a sea journey north with the desire to add to the betterment of mankind by the "enterprise" he has embarked upon. In his letter, he writes, "...do I not deserve to accomplish some great purpose?" Dreams of great accomplishments are not only for characters in fiction. Using Captain Walton's letter to his sister as a model, write a letter to someone close to you telling of a secret dream you have for a worthwhile accomplishment in your own life.
- 5. Captain Walton seems to feel much affection for his sister, Margaret, as this letter shows. We do not know whether or not his sister shares this level of affection for her brother. It could be that she resents him for leaving her, or it could be that she resents the fact that she would never be allowed to pursue such an adventure herself because of the century in which she lived. Complete the following dialogue that Margaret might have with her best friend about her brother and his adventure:

Friend: Ah, I see you've just received a letter from Robert. You must

be so proud of his daring and of his being able to leave all the

comforts here to go off to all that snow and ice.

Margaret: Well, Diana, I'm really not so proud of him. What do you

think of that? I think he...

Letter II

- 6. Captain Walton tells his sister about hiring his crew to begin his "enterprise." He shares his loneliness and his deep need for a friend with his sister. The need for good friends is a universal one. Write a letter to Captain Walton in which you explain your understanding of his need for a friend. Include an example from your own experience or that of someone close to you when you felt the lack of friendship.
- 7. Shelley includes a reference to the "Ancient Mariner." As you probably know, the allusion is to a long narrative poem about the sea, whose full title is "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." It was written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge in 1798. Like Coleridge, Captain Walton describes his "passionate enthusiasm for the dangerous mysteries of ocean..." Think about your experiences with the ocean. These could be pleasant or not. Explain the feelings you associate with the ocean to a friend who has never seen it. If you have not seen an ocean in your lifetime, tell that to your friend, explaining what you imagine such a power must be like.

Letter III

8. This brief letter from Captain Walton to his sister in England tells us that he is well on his way to the North Pole. He is assuring his sister that he is feeling secure over "the pathless sea" and, though it is untamed, the sea is "yet obedient." Many television programs and films have been made about action on the high seas. "Titanic," "Moby Dick," "Mutiny on the Bounty," and even "Love Boat" come to mind. Write a review of one of the above or any other film about the sea which you have seen. Be sure to state how you feel about its portrayal of what life aboard a ship is like.

Letter IV

9. This letter from Captain Walton to his sister is actually three letters written on different dates sent together as one. The first details the events, which happened on a day the ship was ice-bound. A man in a sled drawn by dogs was sighted on the ice about one half-mile from the ship. The captain and crew are astounded to see a stranger in such a remote place. After being rescued, the fatigued and suffering man finally explains his presence by saying that he came, "To seek one who fled from me." As the stranger recuperates, he and Captain Walton become very good friends, the very friend the captain has been yearning to have. Write a dialogue that you think might have taken place between the stranger and Captain Walton a week after the stranger's arrival aboard ship as they walk the deck under the stars.

Captain Walton: I don't want to pry, my dear sir, but who do you seek that fled from you?

The Stranger:

10. The second of Captain Walton's three letters concerns the sharing his dream of "the dominion I should acquire and transmit over the elemental foes of our race." The stranger's reaction to this ambition shocks the captain. Friendships can sometimes be out of balance. An ideal friendship is one which is completely mutual. In others, one of the friends wants or gives much more than the other wishes or can give. Write a letter to a friend you once had; now the two of you have drifted apart. Try to explain why you are writing, why you stopped being friends, and what you want to do about the future.

11. The brief third letter from Captain Walton tells of the stranger's certainty about his fate and that he only waits for death. He has told Captain Walton that he will tell him of the misfortunes which have brought him to this sorry state. He assures the captain that he will then understand "how irrevocably it [his fate] is determined." Most people at one time or another have had the feeling "that all is lost." Write down a conversation with a friend about a time when you or someone you know has been convinced that something unpleasant about life could not be changed and that it must be endured. Real names and facts can, of course, be changed. Be sure to tell how everything eventually worked out.

Chapter I

- 12. This chapter begins with a second narrator, who tells his story in the first person. The narrator, who we know is named Victor, tells of his background and childhood. Victor is an adored only child whose parents bring a beautiful orphaned child, Elizabeth, to live with them. Victor makes no secret of his immediate love for Elizabeth. Sister and brother relationships can be very happy or very troubled. Think about all the brother/sister relationships you know (adult or child ones, relatives or friends). Describe the best sister/brother relationship you know of. Be sure to give your opinion of what makes it the best.
- 13. The style of writing in *Frankenstein* seems more formal, wordy, and difficult than in novels written today. Below is a list of phrases from Chapter I which might be indicative of the fact that this novel was written approximately 200 years ago. Copy the list. Beside each phrase, write a new one that would have the same general meaning, but is more appropriate to modern times.
 - A. "indefatigable attention to public business"
 - B. "from a flourishing state, fell, through numerous mischances"
 - C. "discovered his abode"
 - D. "possessed a mind of uncommon mould"
 - E. "recompensing her for the sorrows she had endured"
 - F. "spoke of penury in its worst shape"
 - G. "motions were lighter than the chamois of the hills"

Chapter II

- 14. Victor talks of the influence of the 16th century German alchemist Cornelius Agrippa, who was, Victor's father tells him, later exposed as a charlatan. Other writers who deeply influenced him were the Swiss physician, Paracelsus, and the 13th century German philosopher (Saint) Albertus Magnus. The ideas of these men, which Victor read when he was still a teenager, led him down the path to his later shocking adult actions. Though Victor is a fictional character, even in real life, the influence of books and ideas should never be underestimated. Think about all the books you have read in your life. Choose one which you feel had an influence on you in some way. Write an article for a teen magazine which has as its title, "A Book I Cannot Forget."
- 15. Victor's childhood and school days seemed to be calm and peaceful. Write a letter to a typical schoolboy in the 17th century, as shown in this chapter, and tell him about teenagers in our own century. Include details about the things which would be missing in Victor's times that we now have, as well as the things we are missing that were available to Victor.

Chapter III

16. Victor says, "...before the day resolved upon could arrive, the first misfortune of my life occurred—an omen, as it were, of my future misery." Victor was seventeen years old when that happened. There is probably no human being on earth who has not had a misfortune at some time or another. Try to recall the very first time you experienced what could truly be called a misfortune or difficult problem. Complete the following dialogue with your best friend about your first misfortune:

You: You know, we have to write about the first misfortune we remember, and, at first, I couldn't even think of one. But then...

17. Not only is Victor being taken over by the influence of books he read at home, but on his first day of classes at University, his science professor captures his mind during his first lecture. Victor feels his path is now set. Suppose your best friend asked you to tell him or her who was the most memorable teacher you ever had. Write about that teacher and what was so memorable. Be sure to discuss how you were influenced by the teacher.

Chapter IV

- 18. In this chapter, we see the fever which grips Victor Frankenstein as he pursues his scientific studies under Professor Waldman's guidance. He consults the work of the ancient alchemists while at the same time pursuing the latest scientific advances. He is also mesmerized by the thought that he can find out the secret of life. Imagine that you are scheduled for a meeting with your teacher to discuss your feelings about modern scientific studies. Make a list of your attitudes toward present-day scientific advances: living in space, DNA, research on animals, cloning humans, and genetically altering food. Be sure to write at least one sentence that gives a reason for each of your opinions.
- 19. Victor is so wrapped up in his scientific pursuits that he neglects his friends and, even worse, his father. Even though he has some guilty feelings about what he is doing, he is so driven that he continues to look for the secret to life, anyway. His father exhibits a lot of patience and does not criticize Victor for his neglect. Suppose you are Victor's father and are not so patient; you feel it is your duty to point out that Victor is wrong to be so isolated and secretive about his studies. Write a letter as Victor's father; tell him how you feel and demand to know what he is doing.

Chapter V

20. This chapter opens with a vivid description of the monster Victor Frankenstein has created. When Victor brings his friend, Henry Clerval, back to his rooms to show him the monster, he discovers that it has disappeared. Suppose you are Victor. Instead of doing nothing, you decide to make a police report about the monster's disappearance. You would, of course, try to cover up your part in the monster's identity. Pretend that you call the police on the phone and explain the problem. Begin as follows:

Police: Scotland Yard. How may I help you?

You:

21. Even though the story of Victor Frankenstein's creation of a monster is fiction, we know that all scientific discoveries can have hidden dangers. For example: Atomic power, gasoline engines, steroids, the internet, etc. Scientific dangers are also the subject of many films and television programs. Write a Letter to the Editor of a local newspaper about the dangers of present day scientific advances. Your letter might begin:

To the Editor:

People should begin to look more closely at all the ways in which new scientific discoveries are affecting us. For instance...

Chapter VI

22. In this chapter, we find that the shock of having created a monster seems not to bother Victor any more. He gets on with his life and friendship with Clerval as if nothing had happened. Nothing is mentioned in this chapter of what has happened to the monster. Complete the dialogue below that you might have with a friend about what could possibly have happened to the monster:

Friend: Don't you think it's strange that there's been no newspaper story or gossip about a monster seen somewhere?

You: That doesn't sound very reasonable to me either. What I think really happened...

23. As you have noticed, the chapters of *Frankenstein* have only Roman numeral headings. Now that you have completed reading six chapters, write a title for each of the six chapters that explains what is in it.

Chapter VII

24. Victor's journey to Geneva upon learning of the murder of his brother, William, is a dark one, indeed. The description of Victor's sighting of the monster on the hills amongst the thunder, lightning, and rain is chilling. The thought that the monster is still alive and could possibly have murdered William horrifies Victor as he travels on. Everyone, at one time or another, has had an experience of being very frightened. Write about a time when you had a frightening experience, even though it most likely was not as terrifying as that of Victor, of course. Be sure to write about your experience in complete sentences and tell how the experience finally worked out.

25. When Victor arrives home, he learns that Justine Moritz, the girl whom the Frankensteins adopted and who grew up with the family, has been accused of William's murder. Victor does not tell his father of his certainty that the monster killed his brother because Victor believes that Justine will be found innocent at her trial, which is beginning that day. He seems determined to protect his secret about creating the monster. Write a letter to Victor explaining how you feel about his not telling anyone about the monster, despite the danger it poses.

Chapter VIII

26. In this chapter, Shelley presents the unjust trial and execution of the innocent Justine Moritz for the murder of William Frankenstein. In the present day, there is a strong argument for eliminating the death penalty, not only in this country, but throughout the world. Suppose you are a person who feels very strongly about the death penalty issue. Write a speech that you would give to an assembly at your school in which you argue against the death penalty, if you feel that way. If, however, you feel that there are times when the death penalty should be imposed, write your speech to reflect that point of view. Be sure to backup your opinion with facts.

Chapter IX

27. Victor now has thoughts of murder, hatred, and revenge. He is also guilt-ridden for having created the monster and feels that he is truly the real murderer. Imagine that you are Victor's closest friend, Henry Clerval, and you have learned that Victor created the monster that is still at large. What advice would you give to Victor? What will you do if he does not take your advice.

28. Victor is tortured by guilt and remorse for all that has happened. To try to find some relief from his painful emotions, he undertakes a journey into the Swiss Alpine valleys. Many people find comfort in nature in times of trouble. Being close to nature also provides a sense of peace and pleasure. Try to remember the last time you spent some time in a natural area, whether that was near the ocean, in the woods, or in the mountains. Write your memories of that time as an account that you would write as a diary entry.

Chapter X

- 29. The description of the beauty of the sea of ice beneath Victor as he sat atop an Alpine mountain is visually powerful. Recall the most beautiful natural occurrence you have ever seen. It can be as simple as a single tree, as small as a wild animal or bird, or as large as the ocean in the moonlight. Write a six line poem about the beauty you found in nature. The poem does not have to rhyme.
- 30. Notice how the conversation between Victor and the monster in the wilderness shows a completely different picture of the creature than modern day films portray. Compose a list of differences and similarities between the book's monster and the way it is depicted today.

Chapter XI

31. This chapter tells the story of what happened to the monster from the time he disappeared from Victor's university room until he meets Victor again in the Alpines. The description of how the monster has been living, the fact that the monster has never been given a name, and the fact that he is referred to by Victor as "his creature" all conspire to present a picture of this tortured "man" as an animal. Write a polite letter to the author of *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley. In the letter, tell her how you feel about her portrayal of the monster and whether you think it is a fair presentation. Be sure to give her the reasons for your thinking as you do. Your letter could begin:

Dear Mrs. Shelley,

Our class is currently reading your novel, *Frankenstein*. One of the things I have noticed is...

- 32. Because this novel was written in the early 1800s, it is understandable that some of the vocabulary would not be in wide use today. The following is a list of sentences and phrases used in this chapter. Beneath each phrase or sentence, write a modern-sounding one that has the same meaning as the one in the book.
 - A. "A strange multiplicity of sensations seized me..."
 - B. "I first discovered that a pleasant sound, which often saluted my ears, proceeded from the throats of the little winged animals who had often intercepted the light from my eyes."
 - C. "I found that the sparrow uttered none but harsh notes, whilst those of the blackbird and thrush were sweet and enticing."
 - D. "I resolved to quit the place that I had hitherto inhabited..."

- E. "I covered every crevice by which I might be perceived with stones and wood, yet in such a manner that I might move them on occasion to pass out..."
- F. "As she walked along, seemingly incommoded by the burden, a young man met her, whose countenance expressed a deeper despondence."
- G. "The silver hair and benevolent countenance of the aged cottager won my reverence..."

Chapter XII

- 33. Keeping in mind that the monster sprang to life as a fully formed adult human being, his bewilderment at the emotions of the family he is secretly watching is understandable. Most people have had an experience, at some time or another, of being alone among a group of strangers and watching their actions. This may have happened on a bus ride, while waiting in line at the supermarket, or awaiting one's turn at the hospital, for instance. Relate an experience you have had of being able to tell a good deal about a group of people just from watching them. Begin by telling where the experience took place, how many people you observed, and what you deduced about them from their actions.
- 34. The monster says, "...I learned that there was but one means to overcome the sensation of pain, and that was death—a state which I feared yet did not understand." Imagine a conversation with the monster in which you try to explain to him what death is. Keep in mind that because of his unique creation, he probably needs to have it explained in the simplest of terms.

Chapter XIII

- 35. In this chapter, the monster learns of history, love, and family among other things. He now realizes he does not have a family, and that saddens him. Write a letter to a cousin in another city telling him or her that you are reading *Frankenstein* and that the monster's creation has gotten you thinking about family. In your letter, discuss what family means to you and the kind of family you hope to have someday.
- 36. Does it seem that the monster is portrayed as evil? When we hear the word "monster" we automatically think of a creature both physically and mentally ugly, evil, destructive, and generally, one with no redeeming values. How does Victor's creation seem to you? Write the monster a letter in which you tell him what you think of him.

Chapter XIV

37. What do you think of this chapter? Does it move the plot of *Frankenstein* forward or is it simply an interruption? Back up your opinion with facts.

Chapter XV

38. In this chapter, the narrator is again the monster. He has learned to read and has found some books which he takes back to his hovel. Two of the books mentioned: *Plutarch's Lives* and *Sorrows of Werter*. Using an encyclopedia, write up some information you find out about these two books and their authors. Then, write a paragraph about each, which explains the monster's feelings about them, as he describes what he feels in the chapter.

- 39. After reading *Paradise Lost*, the other book the monster found, he begins to think he may be able to ease his dreadful loneliness. As autumn begins to turn into winter, the monster decides on a plan to approach one of the members of the family living in the cottage in hopes of finding comfort in human company. He knows the way he looks frightens people, so he resolves to go to the cottage when he knows the blind man would be there alone. The monster is terrified of doing this, but he makes himself go to the cottage and knock anyway. Write a letter to a friend about a time you, someone you saw or read about, or someone close to you had an experience of having to do something that was terrifying. Try to describe the feelings as vividly as possible. Be sure to tell what the feelings were like when the action taken was completed, also.
- 40. The scene at the end of this chapter when the family sees the monster is very sad. The monster is being judged solely on his appearance. This is particularly important, because we know from all that we have read about him that he is sensitive, intelligent, and only trying to relieve the pain of his loneliness. Suppose you were Felix. Write the dialogue you would have with your blind father telling him why you attacked the monster.

You: Father, Father, you cannot believe the horrible appearance of the man! There is no telling what he might have done to you.

Father: But, Felix, what makes you think he would have harmed me in any way?

You:

Chapter XVI

41. The monster creeps back to his hovel adjoining the cottage the following day. He overhears Felix telling his landlord that he is taking away his family because of their fears. He knows that he, too, must leave and plans to go to Geneva to find Victor Frankenstein to take revenge. In his travels, he is shot after saving a child from drowning. Suppose you were the man who shot the monster you found near your daughter. Write out the report the police have asked you to complete when you went to tell them what happened. Begin your report:

"I had taken my daughter with me to the woods where I was hoping to find a pheasant to shoot for our dinner. She wanted to go down to the river to paddle her feet, and..."

42. The murder of Victor's brother, William, in the woods by the monster is described in all its horror. The character of the monster emphasizes the consequences of taking vengeful actions. Complete the following dialogue which you might have with your best friend:

You: As horrible as the murder of William Frankenstein is, I think that the monster should be killed.

Friend: But can't you see at all why the poor demented monster would want to get revenge on Victor for creating him with no thought to the consequences?

Chapter XVII

43. Victor Frankenstein is the narrator of this chapter. He now must deal with the pitiful demand of the monster that he, Victor, "create a female for me." The monster promises that he will cease looking for revenge on Victor and his family and will go away with his new female never to be seen again. Unbelievably, Victor consents to create another monster, this time a female for the monster he has already created. What options, if any, do you think Victor could have pursued other than promising to make another monster? Rewrite Victor's decision which begins with the words, "I consent to your demand…" Offer the monster an alternative to creating a woman for him. Your rewrite could begin:

"Turning to him, therefore, I said...

44. After the monster fades away into the night, Victor weeps alone under the stars, weighted down with fear for what he is about to do. He then returns to his home and his family in Geneva, but he does not share his worry with his family. Suppose you are Victor's best friend who just happens to drop in to see him when he returns to Geneva. You know something is terribly wrong with him. Complete the following dialogue where you try to coax him to share his problem with you:

You: Victor, you're a mess. You look like something the cat dragged in after a three day long rave party. This is me-your best friend, remember? Now you're going to tell me what's been going on, do you hear?

Victor: I can't. It's too difficult.

You:

Chapter XVIII

45. We know that Victor has agreed to create a female monster and now must live with that terrible secret. Because he has learned that doing so may be simpler because of some new English discoveries, his spirits are buoyed. To the eyes of his family, he is now recovering his health, and he has promised to marry Elizabeth upon his return from England. Suppose you are the priest-confessor of Victor and know, not only the secrets of his past, but also that he is going to play God again and create another creature, this time a female one. If Victor comes to you for a church confession before he goes to England to repeat his awful deed, what would you tell him? Complete this dialogue:

Father Confessor: Victor, my son, do you realize you are insulting

God the Father, the Creator of all mankind, in taking it upon yourself to create a human being?

Do you not fear God's wrath?

Victor: But, Father, ...

46. Henry Clerval has agreed to accompany Victor to England. Henry has a very different personality than Victor. Write a character sketch of Henry, which describes the qualities and quirks he has. Include how his friendship with Victor demonstrates what kind of person he is. Be sure to compare the ways in which he and Victor are different.

Chapter XIX

47. Victor leaves Henry to go alone to an island in the Scottish Orkneys to begin his task of creating a female companion for the monster. He works alone and in secret in a squalid hut he has rented. As he works, he is fearful that the monster might find him there and want to claim the newly created companion. Make up a scene in which the monster is able to spy on Victor in secret and what he is doing in his hut. In your scene, be sure to write the monster's thoughts as he watches Victor.

Chapter XX

48. Victor thinks about the evils which could possibly be unleashed by creating yet another monster and letting her out to roam the world. Do you think the scientists who have been involved in the work of cloning sheep in the past and are promising to clone a human being soon, have secret fears of what their work may unleash on the world. Suppose you are one of these worried scientists, and a leading newspaper ask you to write an article about this to be published in the Sunday paper. Write an article which begins:

My Fellow Citizens of the World: A new and frightening discovery has come into being...

49. The monster finds out that Victor has gone back on his promise to create a female companion for him. He curses Victor and leaves him with the words, "Man, you shall repent of the injuries you inflict" and "I shall be with you on your wedding-night." What do you think these two threats mean? Have ever received a threat or threatened someone else? Explain the circumstances.

Chapter XXI

50. Victor is in jail for the murder of his best friend, Henry Clerval. Of course, he did not murder Henry, but, because he was seen out on a boat dumping the half-created female monster, he is arrested for Henry's murder. He is later acquitted and sails with his father back to Geneva. However, imagine his grief at knowing that his creation killed his best friend. Compose a dialogue between Victor and his father about Victor's friend. It may begin as follows:

Father: Well, my son, you are not the murderer of Henry Clerval, but we

all know that, somehow, you were involved. I am your father, and

I command you to tell me the complete truth.

Victor:

Chapter XXII

- 51. Throughout this novel, we have seen the excellent father/son relationship between stubborn, headstrong Victor and his patient, loving father, Alphonse Frankenstein. Think about the qualities which you feel a good parent should possess. Make a list of eight of these qualities. Beside each one write a sentence that indicates what you would do to prove you have that quality.
- 52. Elizabeth's letter to Victor is indeed a loving one; she tells him she is ready to marry him and that she "shall need no other happiness." Write an emergency letter, of no more than fifty words, explaining what you know of Victor and giving Elizabeth some advice.

53. The day of Victor and Elizabeth's wedding is at hand. She is radiantly happy, but Victor is filled with trepidation. He continues to maintain a silence about the monster and all the possibilities for tragedy it could bring. Imagine that you are a guest at the wedding and you know about the monster and his threats. You listen as the minister says the words, "Should anyone here know of any reason why this marriage should not take place, let that person speak now, or forever hold his peace." What you would do or say in the moments following the minister's words? Give the reasons for your action or inaction.

Chapter XXIII

- 54. Victor talks of all the deaths for which the monster has been responsible. His brother William, his best friend Clerval, Justine, and now his beloved Elizabeth are dead. He worries that the monster may try to kill the last remaining members of Victor's family, his father and brother Ernest. It does not seem to enter Victor's mind that he has played any part in all the deaths by virtue of having created the monster. Write Victor a letter detailing how you feel about his participation in the deaths.
- 55. The scene between Victor and the magistrate about the monster is an interesting one. When the magistrate tells him he feels the pursuit would be useless, Victor is enraged. He tells the magistrate, "...I devote myself, either in life or death, to his destruction." In other words, he is telling a legal authority that he plans to kill someone. Suppose that conversation had taken place in our time. Write a speech that a modern day magistrate (judge) might make to Victor about the threat.

Chapter XXIV

- 56. Victor asks the question, "To you first entering on life, to whom care is new, and agony unknown, how can you understand what I have felt, and still feel?" He is referring to young people when he says "you first entering on life." How would you answer Victor's question? Do you think it is possible to understand someone else's pain and suffering, even though you have not experienced such pain and suffering yourself? Imagine you are in the company of Victor, and he has asked you that question. Write the answer you would give him, including how you feel about what has happened to him.
- 57. Victor's pursuit of the monster takes him to the frozen Arctic wilderness. Traveling by dog sledge across the ice, he comes upon the ice-bound ship of Captain Walton. Victor, of course, is the stranger referred to at the beginning of the novel in Captain Walton's letters to his sister. Imagine that you are a reporter in the sledge with Victor. Your boss wants a story on the pursuit of the monster. Write a headline of five words or fewer, an article about your travels together and how it felt to see a ship looming up out of the endless ice.

Walton, In Continuation

58. The last five letters of Captain Walton complete the story of Victor and the monster. In his letter of September 5th, Captain Walton tells his sister of his fears of a mutiny aboard the ship. There have been many novels and films written about mutinies; the best known probably are *Mutiny on the Bounty* and *The Caine Mutiny*. Both books have been made into excellent films. Look up the word "mutiny" in an encyclopedia. Write a letter to a friend, who has no idea of what a mutiny is, about the history and danger of having a mutiny aboard a ship, and how they happen.

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- 59. In his letter to his sister of September 12th, Captain Walton describes the death of Victor. Were you surprised that the author chose to have Victor die rather than succeed in killing the monster? Write a short paragraph that explains your reaction to the death of Victor.
- 60. *Frankenstein* closes with the monster jumping out of the cabin window and into an ice-raft. He is then "borne away by the waves, and lost in darkness and distance." This does not indicate whether or not the monster dies. Write the title and first paragraph of a sequel to *Frankenstein*, which takes place years later.

Wrap-Up

- 61. Suppose you were asked to star in a remake of a film of this book. Without worrying about the gender element, which character in *Frankenstein* would you like most to be? Give your reasons for your choice.
- 62. In modern times the name "Frankenstein" has come to refer to the monster, not its creator. In fact, the monster is never given a name. Why do you suppose we have adopted the name of the doctor for the name of the creature? Make up a name for the monster and explain why you chose it.
- 63. The subtitle for *Frankenstein* is "*The Modern Prometheus*." Look up Prometheus in the encyclopedia or on the Internet. Write a paragraph or two that explains why you feel Mary Shelly used that specific subtitle. How does Prometheus relate to *Frankenstein*?

Test

- 1. In the course of this novel, the creature's greatest need is for
 - A. food and warmth.
 - B. a heart and soul.
 - C. a woman and family.
 - D. friendship and understanding.
 - E. money.
- 2. Robert Walton has sailed to the far North because he is seeking
 - A. gold and wealth.
 - B. the fabled monster he's heard so much about.
 - C. fame and glory.
 - D. to save his friend Victor Frankenstein.
 - E. to do good for mankind.
- 3. To tell her story, the author uses the device(s) of
 - A. a story within a story.
 - B. letters to a third party.
 - C. a play.
 - D. short sentences.
 - E. Both A and B
- 4. The first person in the story to mention the idea of "the need for a friend in life" is
 - A. the creature.
 - B. Victor Frankenstein.
 - C. Henry Clerval.
 - D. Felix.
 - E. Robert Walton.
- 5. Throughout most of this story, the narrator is
 - A. Robert Walton.
 - B. Victor Frankenstein.
 - C. Henry Clerval.
 - D. the monster.

- 6. The objective of Victor's early study is to
 - A. discover the meaning of life.
 - B. to banish illness and disease from mankind.
 - C. become a god-like figure.
 - D. show up M. Klempe as an idiot.
 - E. make a great deal of money.
- 7. Although he does not say so directly, we can infer from his comments that Victor is motivated by
 - A. greed.
 - B. lust.
 - C. pride.
 - D. jealousy.
 - E. love.
- 8. The first time the creature reaches out to touch Victor, we may infer that the creature acts out of
 - A. fear.
 - B. hatred.
 - C. love.
 - D. anger.
 - E. joy.
- 9. What is Victor's reaction the first time the monster reaches toward him?
 - A. He is very happy to see it alive.
 - B. He is saddened by the look of pain on its face.
 - C. He is proud of what he has created.
 - D. He is disgusted by its appearance.
 - E. Both A and B.
- 10. William is killed by
 - A. Justine.
 - B. Elizabeth.
 - C. the creature.
 - D. Victor.
 - E. Dr. Klempe.

- 11. After Justine is executed, Victor falls into a depression because
 - A. he misses her so much.
 - B. he never has a chance to tell her how he truly feels about her.
 - C. he feels responsible for the crime of which she is accused.
 - D. he feels if he had been at home, the crime would never have happened.
- 12. Felix's family is imprisoned because Felix has
 - A. helped the creature escape the police.
 - B. helped the Turk escape from prison.
 - C. stolen the Turk's daughter, who is destined to marry the Prince.
 - D. killed a deer in the Royal Forest.
 - E. preached the overthrow of the monarchy.
- 13. The monster makes great progress in learning the written and spoken language as he observes
 - A. the children in school.
 - B. the old woman teaching her daughter to read.
 - C. the people in the cottage teaching the language to Safie.
 - D. Felix explaining things to the Turk.
- 14. The request that the creature says Frankenstein must comply with or suffer the consequence is that Frankenstein
 - A. must settle a large sum of money on him so he can live comfortably.
 - B. must tell all the world that he, Frankenstein, is the creature's creator.
 - C. must do surgery on him to make him look less fearsome.
 - D. must create him a female companion.
- 15. Both Victor Frankenstein and the creature
 - A. love Elizabeth.
 - B. are captivated by rugged nature.
 - C. find peace and joy in the mountains.
 - D. are obsessed by revenge.
 - E. Both B and C.

- 16. The mythological figure that the author compares Frankenstein to in her title is
 - A. the Gorgon.
 - B. Prometheus.
 - C. Hercules.
 - D. Oedipus.
 - E. Medusa.
- 17. The one person who is kind to the creature is
 - A. Walton.
 - B. Felix.
 - C. the old, blind man.
 - D. Elizabeth.
 - E. Justine.
- 18. The novel ends with
 - A. the creature killing Dr. Frankenstein.
 - B. Walton killing the creature.
 - C. the creature leaving the boat with the purpose of killing himself.
 - D. Both A and B

Test Student Answer Sheet

Name:	
1	11
2	12
3	13
4	14
5	15
6	16
7	17
8	18
9	
10	

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- 3.<u>E</u>
- 4.__<u>E</u>__
- 5.<u>B</u>_
- 6.<u>B</u>_

- 9.__D_

- 11.<u>C</u>
- 12.<u>B</u>
- 14.__D__
- 15.__D__
- 16.<u>B</u>

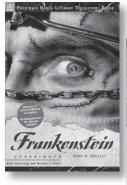
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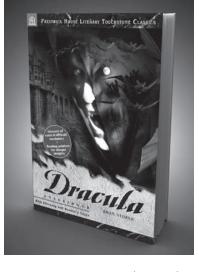
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