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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.
 - A. rejection/alienation of individuals
 - B. importance of friendship in one's life
 - C. taking responsibility for one's actions and for the actions of others in the world
 - D. seeking knowledge for glory's sake
 - E. obsession/revenge
 - F. nature
 - G. depression
 - H. 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.

VOCABULARY QUIZ

(from Prologue up to Chapter XI, inclusive)

1. characterized by strong emotions
 - a. perpetual
 - b. phenomena
 - c. ardent
 - d. tranquilize
2. sphere of influence or control
 - a. induce
 - b. dominion
 - c. fervent
 - d. inexorable
3. reference to a historically significant person, place or event
 - a. allusion
 - b. paroxysm
 - c. repose
 - d. inexorable
4. rest or sleep
 - a. effusion
 - b. capitulate
 - c. ameliorate
 - d. repose
5. very familiar or close
 - a. intimate
 - b. interment
 - c. penury
 - d. chamois
6. tireless
 - a. disconsolate
 - b. rankling
 - c. indefatigable
 - d. penury
7. a condition of very great poverty
 - a. rankling
 - b. internment
 - c. plaited
 - d. penury

8. burial
 - a. recompense
 - b. rankling
 - c. pittance
 - d. interment
9. preference; partiality
 - a. predilection
 - b. caprice
 - c. avidity
 - d. tyros
10. severity of weather; stormy
 - a. impediment
 - b. filial
 - c. indulgence
 - d. inclemency
11. impulsive; change one's mind on a whim
 - a. caprice
 - b. rapture
 - c. avidity
 - d. tertiary
12. children, descendants, or off-spring
 - a. impediments
 - b. tyros
 - c. infidels
 - d. progeny
13. threatened or put in peril
 - a. prognosticated
 - b. irreparable
 - c. deferred
 - d. menaced
14. valor or determination
 - a. benignity
 - b. palpable
 - c. fortitude
 - d. imprudence

15. mistaken
 - a. chaise
 - b. deferred
 - c. erroneous
 - d. palpable
16. to put off, delay, or postpone
 - a. defer
 - b. reprobate
 - c. menace
 - d. delineate
17. starved or extremely thin
 - a. unhallowed
 - b. emaciated
 - c. pedantry
 - d. esteemed
18. achieve with little effort
 - a. incipient
 - b. facile
 - c. abstruse
 - d. physiognomy
19. high regard; favorable opinion
 - a. dogmatism
 - b. receptacle
 - c. incipient
 - d. esteem
20. just beginning; early stage
 - a. abstruse
 - b. facile
 - c. esteem
 - d. incipient
21. painful regret
 - a. allude
 - b. shroud
 - c. remorse
 - d. languor

22. weariness
a. lassitude
b. pertinacity
c. delineate
d. palpitation
23. to hint at or to mention slightly
a. pertinacity
b. unremitting
c. languor
d. allude
24. burial cloth or garments
a. shroud
b. remorse
c. delineate
d. palpitation
25. peaceful or calm
a. vivacity
b. salubrious
c. placid
d. vacillating
26. to totally scatter, to dispel
a. perambulations
b. encumber
c. fetter
d. dissipate
27. a speech or writing in praise of the dead
a. perambulation
b. antipathy
c. eulogy
d. fetter
28. liveliness
a. vivacity
b. perversity
c. diffidence
d. dilatory

29. long; tiring
a. candor
b. precipice
c. tedious
d. alleviate
30. worthy of respect or reverence due to age or character
a. venerable
b. prognosticate
c. promontory
d. alleviate
31. speaking honestly with frankness or sincerity
a. deposition
b. prognosticate
c. candor
d. alleviate
32. characterized by deceit or sly tricks
a. obdurate
b. lamentations
c. perdition
d. guile
33. to guess or theorize
a. conjecture
b. execrated
c. adduced
d. approbation
34. to ridicule; to make fun of
a. countenance
b. mockery
c. absolution
d. adduced
35. to feel anger at something unworthy or unjust
a. execrated
b. timorous
c. indignation
d. guile

36. cries of sorrow or grief, mourning
- a. lamentations
 - b. timorous
 - c. ignominious
 - d. guiles
37. painful regret for having done wrong
- a. despondent
 - b. impetuous
 - c. efface
 - d. remorse
38. to rub out; to obliterate
- a. augmenting
 - b. efface
 - c. unalterable
 - d. despondent
39. a desire to hurt or harm others
- a. malice
 - b. abhorrence
 - c. perceptible
 - d. augmenting
40. an intentional injury to anything sacred
- a. epoch
 - b. ephemeral
 - c. sacrilege
 - d. efface
41. to rip; to make an opening
- a. divert
 - b. rent
 - c. surmount
 - d. commiserate
42. to overcome; to ascend to the top and cross over
- a. dissoluble
 - b. divert
 - c. mutability
 - d. surmount

43. to feel or express sorrow or pity; to sympathize
- pinnacle
 - rent
 - commiserate
 - anon
44. the highest point
- pinnacle
 - mutability
 - reverberate
 - dissoluble
45. inactive; resembling sleep
- opaque
 - dormant
 - assuage
 - symmetry
46. crude, unrefined, or awkward
- uncouth
 - disconsolate
 - imperceptible
 - pensive
47. speech that is not easily understood; not distinct
- pensive
 - rambling
 - inarticulate
 - canopied
48. thoughtful
- pensive
 - impervious
 - disconsolate
 - inarticulate
49. to make less severe; to satisfy or appease
- mode
 - purloined
 - assuage
 - demeanor
50. gloomy, helpless, sad, despairing
- symmetry
 - hovel
 - pensive
 - disconsolate

VOCABULARY QUIZ

(Chapters 12 to 24)

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
 - b. 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
13. keen; sound judgment
 - a. sagacity
 - b. portmanteau
 - c. intrusion
 - d. consternation
14. to urge on, to stir up
 - a. mediation
 - b. supplication
 - c. imbued
 - d. instigate

15. to cause ruin or injury
 - a. spurn
 - b. appease
 - c. havoc
 - d. gesticulations
16. helplessness
 - a. spurned
 - b. impotence
 - c. recompense
 - d. benignity
17. to calm or comfort
 - a. imbibe
 - b. requisition
 - c. wanton
 - d. soothe
18. to award compensation to, or to make amends for damage
 - a. imbibe
 - b. vestige
 - c. imprudent
 - d. recompense
19. something harmful
 - a. contortion
 - b. detrimental
 - c. compassionate
 - d. feint
20. a desire to hurt or harm others
 - a. feint
 - b. concede
 - c. precipitate
 - d. malice
21. tending to delay
 - a. solemnization
 - b. dissipate
 - c. dilatory
 - d. intimate

22. a mask or pretense
a. candor
b. guise
c. chastened
d. promontory
23. evil plotting; secret schemes
a. machinations
b. indolence
c. intimated
d. chastened
24. a wasteful use of time or energy
a. sedulous
b. coveted
c. exordium
d. dissipate
25. to give in to; to consent passively
a. variegate
b. dissipate
c. manifold
d. acquiesce
26. existing briefly; short lived
a. transitory
b. palpitation
c. languid
d. alleging
27. a new or unusual thing
a. novelty
b. antiquity
c. profound
d. debar
28. to make easy, to get something done
a. remissness
b. chastened
c. promontory
d. expedite

29. a meeting place
a. debar
b. rendezvous
c. congenial
d. remonstrate
30. to protest or object
a. benumb
b. tumult
c. remonstrate
d. immerse
31. a commotion; a noise or uproar
a. tumult
b. dissuade
c. expedite
d. antiquity
32. highly injurious; showing ill will
a. profundity
b. languid
c. sophisms
d. malignant
33. to reproduce; to produce off- spring
a. presentiment
b. condescension
c. propagate
d. provocation
34. dreamy thoughts; thinking of pleasant things
a. fortitude
b. reverie
c. cultivation
d. atrocious
35. prudent; wise in looking out for one's own interests
a. insuperable
b. debility
c. propagate
d. politic

36. courage in facing pain or danger
a. fortitude
b. politic
c. reverie
d. atrocious
37. kind; good natured or charitable
a. internment
b. squalid
c. benevolent
d. augury
38. druggist or pharmacist
a. retrospect
b. torpor
c. laudanum
d. apothecary
39. dirty or unkept appearance
a. squalid
b. augury
c. languid
d. precarious
40. feeling weak or indifferent
a. repugnance
b. precarious
c. enraptured
d. languid
41. uncertain, dangerous, risky
a. precarious
b. repugnance
c. livid
d. languid
42. untiring, tireless
a. indefatigable
b. unhallowed
c. curbed
d. formidable

43. to pronounce or speak clearly
a. futurity
b. augment
c. erroneous
d. enunciate
44. liveliness; spirited
a. tangible
b. artifice
c. nuptial
d. vivacity
45. of marriages or weddings
a. nuptial
b. futurity
c. imperious
d. conflagration
46. opponent or enemy
a. acme
b. martyrs
c. adversary
d. physiognomy
47. one who sacrifices, suffers, or dies for a principle
a. acme
b. physiognomy
c. martyr
d. proportionate
48. a condition of great joy
a. retribution
b. ecstasy
c. enjoined
d. instigated
49. something demanded in payment
a. gibe
b. protraction
c. imprecation
d. retribution
50. generations of the future
a. posterity
b. illustrious
c. infantile
d. conflagration

Frankenstein

Questions for Essay or 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

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. deus ex machina.
 - D. stream of consciousness.
 - E. Both A and B
4. The first person in the story to mention the motif of "the need for a friend in life" is
 - A. the creature.
 - B. Victor Frankenstein.
 - C. Henry Clerval.
 - D. Felix.
 - E. Robert Walton.
5. Which of the following describes the Romantic personality as seen in this novel?
 - A. the objective analysis of truth
 - B. intuition and subjectiveness
 - C. the beauty and power of nature
 - D. A, B, and C
 - E. Both B and C
6. Throughout most of this story the narrator is
 - A. Robert Walton.
 - B. Victor Frankenstein.
 - C. Henry Clerval.
 - D. the third person omniscient narrator.

7. The objective of Victor's early study is to
 - A. discover the meaning of life.
 - B. banish illness and disease from mankind.
 - C. become a god-like figure.
 - D. show that M. Krempe is as an idiot.
 - E. make a great deal of money.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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
11. William is killed by
 - A. Justine.
 - B. Elizabeth.
 - C. the creature.
 - D. Victor.
 - E. M. Krempe.
12. 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.

13. 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.
14. The subplot with Felix and Safie allows the author to
 - A. introduce characters from an exotic place.
 - B. comment on the dependent role of women in Eastern societies.
 - C. develop the theme of friendship and rejection.
 - D. all of the above.
15. The wretch 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.
16. The request to which the creature says Frankenstein must comply or suffer the consequence is that Frankenstein
 - A. must give him a large sum of money so that 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.
17. 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
18. The mythological figure that the author compares Frankenstein to in her title is
 - A. the Gorgon.
 - B. Prometheus.
 - C. Hercules.
 - D. Oedipus.
 - E. Medusa.

19. The one person who is kind to the creature is
 - A. Walton.
 - B. Felix.
 - C. the blind old man.
 - D. Elizabeth.
 - E. Justine.
20. The novel ends with
 - A. the creature killing Dr. Frankenstein.
 - B. Walton killing the creature.
 - C. the creature leaving the boat with the avowed purpose of killing himself.
 - D. Both A and B

Essays (Answer any two.)

1. State what you believe Victor is most guiltily of. Support this statement by referring to specific incidents in the text.
2. Trace the theme of alienation and rejection in this novel, citing the incidents that demonstrate these points. Include Victor's isolation, the monster's isolation from society, and how the monster isolates Victor.
3. What is the function of Captain Walton in the book? Consider his practical function as well as his literary function as he relates to other characters and major themes in the novel.
4. Pride is one of the deadly sins, and it has been said that "pride goeth before a fall." In what way is *Frankenstein* a study of the results of pride?
5. Discuss Victor's fall and how it relates to religious references in the novel.

Frankenstein

Answer Keys

Vocabulary Quizzes from Prologue up to Chapter XI, inclusive

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | C | 26. | D |
| 2. | B | 27. | C |
| 3. | A | 28. | A |
| 4. | D | 29. | C |
| 5. | A | 30. | A |
| 6. | C | 31. | C |
| 7. | D | 32. | D |
| 8. | D | 33. | A |
| 9. | A | 34. | B |
| 10. | D | 35. | C |
| 11. | A | 36. | A |
| 12. | D | 37. | D |
| 13. | D | 38. | B |
| 14. | C | 39. | A |
| 15. | C | 40. | C |
| 16. | A | 41. | B |
| 17. | B | 42. | D |
| 18. | B | 43. | C |
| 19. | D | 44. | A |
| 20. | D | 45. | B |
| 21. | C | 46. | A |
| 22. | A | 47. | C |
| 23. | D | 48. | A |
| 24. | A | 49. | C |
| 25. | C | 50. | D |

Vocabulary Quizzes
Chapters XII-XXIV

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1. | D | 26. | A |
| 2. | A | 27. | A |
| 3. | C | 28. | D |
| 4. | B | 29. | B |
| 5. | A | 30. | C |
| 6. | D | 31. | A |
| 7. | D | 32. | D |
| 8. | D | 33. | C |
| 9. | B | 34. | B |
| 10. | A | 35. | D |
| 11. | D | 36. | A |
| 12. | C | 37. | C |
| 13. | A | 38. | D |
| 14. | D | 39. | A |
| 15. | C | 40. | D |
| 16. | B | 41. | A |
| 17. | D | 42. | A |
| 18. | D | 43. | D |
| 19. | B | 44. | D |
| 20. | D | 45. | A |
| 21. | C | 46. | C |
| 22. | B | 47. | C |
| 23. | A | 48. | B |
| 24. | D | 49. | D |
| 25. | D | 50. | A |

Test Key

1.	D	11.	C
2.	C	12.	C
3.	E	13.	B
4.	E	14.	D
5.	E	15.	C
6.	B	16.	D
7.	B	17.	D
8.	C	18.	B
9.	C	19.	C
10.	D	20.	C

Frankenstein

Study Guide Teacher's Copy

Prologue

Note to Teacher: Students may assume that Frankenstein is the name of the monster due to current cultural portrayals of Shelley's novel. In the novel, Victor Frankenstein is the name of the protagonist, the monster's creator. The monster has no name.

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press Edition of Frankenstein, published 2005

Vocabulary

fervent - passionate, glowing

perpetual - never ending, eternal

diffusing - to pour out, spread

phenomena - fact, event, or circumstance that can be observed, usually considered extraordinary or remarkable

eccentricities - deviating from a conventional pattern

ardent - characterized by strong enthusiasm

induce - to persuade

requisite - required; a necessity

dominion - sphere of influence or control

tranquilize - to make calm, peaceful, quiet

effusions - a pouring out of unrestrained expressions or feelings

inuring - to become used to something undesirable by prolonged subjection

dauntless - without fright or discouragement

inexorable - relentless, unyielding

allusion - reference to a historically significant person, place, or event

solicitude - concern, anxious care

capitulated - surrender on terms or conditions

repose - rest or sleep

conciliating - reconciling, a winning over

paroxysm - a spasm, fit, or sudden outburst

ameliorate - improve, to become or make better

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?

Robert Walton is narrating in first person from the participant point of view. He is attempting to be the first person to sail to and reach the North Pole. He is pursuing this goal for personal gain and glory. He is not concerned with the possible cost in the suffering of his crew or even the benefits this exploration will provide to mankind. He thinks only of the glory and fame that will be his.

2. How has the narrator, Robert Walton, prepared for his great enterprise? What gives him the idea?

He has become an able-bodied seaman by traveling for six years on many expeditions in the northern seas. Now in St. Petersburg, Russia, he has acquired a ship, crew, and lieutenant. He first dreams of this voyage while reading many adventurous accounts of early sailors. He reads these in his childhood while living with his uncle Thomas after his father's death.

3. Why does Walton want a friend? How does he define a friend?

Walton is lonely and has no one who shares his values or interests. He also wants a friend to share the joys of his successes or to soften his dejection if he fails. He feels a true friend will let him be himself, but only so long as his actions do not cause great injury to himself or others. A friend would be there in both good and bad times and would speak his mind candidly.

4. Walton says he is a "Romantic." What is a Romantic person like?

Walton listens to his heart instead of his mind. As a Romantic, he is concerned with the individual, focusing on his subjective experiences. He is irrational, imaginative, and emotional. He also finds peace in nature and admires its beauty.

5. What time of year is it when Walton begins his voyage?

He starts his voyage at the earliest beginning of spring, so he can arrive at the Pole in summer and return before the upcoming fall and winter.

6. Describe the strange thing that is seen by Walton and his crew.

Initially they see a dog sledge pulling a gigantic being, which has the shape of a man.

7. Describe the man who later is brought on the ship. What does the man ask that is astonishing to Walton? Why do you suppose he asks this; what does he want to do? How does Walton feel about this man? Why?

They find a European man who is totally exhausted by fatigue and emaciated by hunger. He is in the worst possible physical condition. It is surprising that he asks Walton what his destination is. Instead of seeking aid for his suffering, the man wants help in continuing his pursuit of the monster they saw earlier. Walton begins to love the man as a brother and sees him as the friend he desired.

8. How does this man react to Walton's dream or goal?

The stranger is horrified by Walton's goal because he sees himself in Walton. He fears Walton is doomed to make the same tragic mistakes he has made. He fears for Walton's safety and the crew's lives.

9. What story is the stranger going to tell Walton? Why is he going to share this story?

He is going to tell Walton the events that destroyed his family and himself. He feels Walton is about to make the same mistakes and wants to spare him the same fate.

10. Who do you suppose will be the narrator of Chapter I?

Chapter I, which begins the introduction of main characters and establishes the setting of the novel, is narrated by Victor Frankenstein as a first-person participant.

Chapters I and II

Vocabulary

indefatigable - tireless
intimate - very familiar, close
rankling - soreness, great pain
plaited - weave, braid
pittance - very small amount; a trifling
disconsolate - hopelessly sad
interment - burial
recompensing - reward; pay back, or payment
penury - very great poverty
chamois - small, goat-like antelope
ardor - great intensity; passion; strong enthusiasm
sublime - exalted; inspiring awe
rapture - elation; exhilaration
infidels - without religion or belief; an atheist
indulgence - liberal or lenient treatment
caprice - impulsive change of mind, whim
filial - affectionate; obedient; pertaining to a son or daughter
metaphysical - mystical, abstract, spiritual
predilection - preference, partiality
inclemency - severity of weather, stormy
chimerical - illusionary, fanciful, dreamlike
avidity - eagerness; greediness
imbued - filled with ideas, feelings, etc.
tyros - beginners, amateurs
tertiary - third place or rank
impediments - hindrance; block
repined - express discontent
averred - to declare in a positive, formal way
progeny - children, descendants, offspring
immutable - not susceptible to change

1. What are Frankenstein's parents like? How do they feel about each other and about their child?

They are from a distinguished family and they are devoted to each other and their child.

2. Who is Elizabeth? Describe her. How does she come to join the Frankenstein family?

Elizabeth is the child of nobles who died, and she is adopted by Victor's mother.

3. How do people react to Elizabeth? How does Victor feel about Elizabeth?

Everyone loves her. Victor believes that she is his to love and protect.

4. How are Victor and Elizabeth different? What kind of person is Victor?

Victor is curious to learn the hidden laws of nature. While Elizabeth, his companion, delights in the appearances of things, he investigates their causes.

5. Who is Henry Clerval? What is he like? How is he different from Victor?

Henry is a boyhood friend of Victor's. Henry is adventurous; he is interested in romances and the moral relations of things.

6. How does Elizabeth affect Victor and Henry?

She softens their passions and improves their character.

7. At age eighteen what does Victor say is his passion, and what is the eventual result of it?

He loves the works of Agrippa, and this leads to his ruin.

8. What does Victor want to accomplish in life?

He wants to find the elixir of life and banish disease from mankind.

9. Why does Victor turn to the study of mathematics? What prevents him from continuing this study?

He wants to study real knowledge, and he believes that destiny has decided something else for him.

Chapters III and IV

Vocabulary

menaced - threatened, put in peril
imprudence - unwise
prognosticated - to predict on the basis of present indications
fortitude - valor; determination
benignity - kindly disposition; gracious
irreparable - hopeless, irreversible
deferred - to put off, delay, postpone
zeal - eagerness, enthusiast
chaise - two-wheeled, open carriage
imbued - saturated, filled
reprobate - morally unprincipled person
recapitulation - the act of being repeated; summarized
panegyric - speech filled with praise, compliments
elixir - sweetened solution containing medicine
palpable - acceptable to the mind or sensibilities
mien - appearance, look
erroneously - mistakenly
physiognomy - facial features which reveal characteristics
dogmatism - authoritarian assertion of opinion
pedant - one who flaunts learning
abstruse - difficult to understand
facile - achieved with little effort
esteem - high regard, favorable opinion
receptacle - a container or place for keeping things
emaciated - starved, extremely thin
unhallowed - not sacred, wicked, sinful, evil
incipient - just beginning, early stage

1. Identify the misfortune which he views as an omen of his future misery before he leaves for the university.

His mother dies of scarlet fever.

2. What does Victor's mother say she wants for Victor and Elizabeth?

She wants them to be married.

3. Henry cannot accompany Victor to the university, why?

Henry's father will not allow him to go. He is a narrow-minded person, who sees only idleness in his son's ambitions.

4. How does Henry's father relate to the themes of power and friendship?

Despite the wishes of both young men, the father has the power to separate the friends from each other.

5. Why does Victor not want to study the contemporary scientists suggested by M. Krempe?

Victor has contempt for the uses of modern natural philosophy; he believes the older, natural philosophies seek immortality and power while the modern ones are just busy proving the old ones wrong.

6. After hearing Mr. Waldman's lectures, what does Victor plan to do?

He will return to his ancient studies and tells Mr. Waldman of his plans to study them and chemistry. Mr. Waldman encourages his studies and suggests others to aid his pursuit.

7. After two years of study, why does Victor consider going home?

He feels he has learned all that the professors can teach.

8. During Victor's study of anatomy, what is it that keeps him from going home? What does he discover?

He becomes interested in the manner in which life is generated. After much labor, he discovers the secret of how life is created.

9. Why does Victor refuse to explain to Walton what he has discovered?

He believes the knowledge will bring Walton only destruction and misery. "Learn from me...how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge." (Pg. 43)

10. What task does Victor begin? Describe Victor's feelings as he goes about his task.

He is going to create a being of gigantic stature. "A new species would bless me as its creator and source; many happy and excellent natures would owe their being to me." (Pg. 44)

11. What kind of studies does Victor say people should avoid?

He believes they should avoid those studies that weaken affections and destroy the taste for simple pleasures; man should preserve a calm and peaceful mind.

12. What happens to Victor near the completion of his task?

He tells us that he becomes anxious and nervous to a pained degree.

Chapters V and VI

Vocabulary

delineate - describe in words

lassitude - weariness

shroud - burial cloth or garments

demoniacal - devilish, very wicked

palpitation - throbbing, beating rapidly

languor - lack of enthusiasm

allude - hint at, mention slightly

unremitting - steady

pertinacity - great persistence, not giving up, continuing, stubbornness

remorse - deep, painful regret

fetter - restrain, tie up

placid - peaceful, quiet

perversity - abnormality, difference

dissipate - totally scatter, dispel

vivacity - liveliness

vacillating - unsteady, wavering

antipathy - strong dislike, hate

encomiums - songs of praise, highly complimentary

diffident - lacking in self-confidence

eulogy - speech or writing in praise of the dead

dilatoriness - lateness, not prompt

perambulations - walks or strolls

salubrious - healthful

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

*It has white, watery eyes and a shriveled, yellowish complexion with straight lips.
It is large in stature.*

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

Breathless horror and disgust fill his heart when he sees the creature. He runs from the room.

3. Describe Victor Frankenstein's disturbed dream.

He sees Elizabeth; when he kisses her, she dies and turns into his dead mother and some zombie-like creature.

4. What does Frankenstein do when the creature reaches out to him? What do you think is the creature's reason for reaching out for Dr. Frankenstein?

Frankenstein feels repulsion and disgust when the creature tries to make friendly contact.

5. How does Victor feel when he realizes his creation has left his apartment? How does he behave right after this realization?

He feels great relief and good fortune. He jumps over chairs with a wild, heartless laughter at the monster's absence.

6. What does Victor find very tormenting?

The very sight of chemical instruments renews his agony over his creation. When he is praised for his scientific knowledge, he becomes agitated.

7. After creating the monster, what does Victor study now?

He studies Oriental languages and literature like Henry to find instruction and consolation. It is a temporary study for amusement.

8. According to Victor, why is Henry a good friend to him?

Henry senses his feelings and avoids topics which cause him discomfort.

9. Describe Henry's mood at the end of this chapter.

He is in good spirits and says he experiences great joy and hilarity.

Chapters VII and VIII

Vocabulary

prognosticate - to forecast, to predict from facts

tedious - long and tiring

promontory - a high point of land extending from the coast into the land

dirge - funeral song

precipices - cliff, crag, steep mountainside

venerable - worthy of respect or reverence due to age, character, or importance

alleviate - to relieve, to lessen, to make easier

deposition - testimony under oath or sworn testimony in writing

candor - speaking honestly, frankness, sincerity

mockery - to ridicule, to make fun of

ignominious - shameful, disgraceful, dishonorable

exculpated - to free from blame, prove guiltless

countenance - facial expressions

execrated - detested, abhorred

adduced - to give as proof or evidence

indignation - anger at something unworthy or unjust

conjecture - guess, theorize

wantonly - done in a reckless and malicious way; not moral

timorous - timid, easily frightened

approbation - approval, favorable opinion

guile - deceit, sly tricks

absolution - freeing from guilt or blame

excommunication - a cutting off or removal from the church

obdurate - stubborn, obstinate; not repentant

perdition - loss of one's soul; utter loss or destruction

lamentations - cries of sorrow or grief, wailing, mourning

1. What tragedy happens in Victor's family?

Victor's father tells him that William has been murdered.

2. How does Victor feel as he nears his home?

As he nears home, fear and anxiety overcome him.

3. What does Victor see in the midst of a violent thunderstorm?

In an illumination of lightning Victor sees the creature he created and believes it has killed his brother, William.

4. For what reason does Victor decide to remain silent about his monster?

Victor remains silent about his creation because it cannot be captured. He is also fearful of the consequences of creating the monster.

5. Who has been accused of the murder and for what reason?

Justine Moritz, an adopted girl servant, is accused of William's murder. She has the mother's picture in her pocket; when questioned about the murder, she acts strangely.

6. Why does Victor not tell anyone about his creation to clear Justine's name?

Victor believes that the circumstantial evidence against her is not enough for conviction. He also feels no one would believe the story of the true killer.

7. Why does Victor think that Justine's tortures do not equal his own?

Victor knows he is guilty, and she is innocent; his guilt makes him feel more tortured.

8. Why does Elizabeth's speech in court hurt Justine?

While she means to help Justine, people feel Justine has betrayed Elizabeth's generosity, thus hating Justine even more.

9. How does Justine show her goodness?

She appreciates the family's faith in her and hopes in the law.

10. Do you think Victor is as guilty as he feels he is? Of what do you think he is guilty, if anything?

Answers may vary. One possibility is that Victor is guilty of William's murder because he created the monster. Victor has chosen to remain silent about his creation instead of freeing Justine from the murder accusation; therefore, he is also guilty of what happens to Justine.

Chapters IX and X

Vocabulary

remorse - deep, painful regret for having done wrong

perceptible - to become aware of or understood through the senses

augmenting - making greater in size, number or amount; increasing

malice - a desire to hurt or harm others

unalterable - not changeable, permanent

efface - rub out, to obliterate

abhorrence - intense dislike

desponding - becoming disheartened

sacrilege - an intentional injury to anything sacred

ephemeral - transitory; lasting for a brief time

epoch - beginning of a period of time or era when something striking happens

impetuous - impulsive, brash; rushing with violence

reverberated - resounded; reflected

anon - soon, in a short time

rent - to rip, to make an opening

divert - to turn aside from a direction; to distract or amuse

pinnacle - the highest point

surmount - to overcome; to ascend to the top and cross over

mutability - ability to change

diabolically - devilishly, wickedly

dissoluble - capable of being dissolved

negligently - habitually guilty of neglect

irrevocably - incapable of being retracted or revoked

commiserate - to feel or express sorrow or pity; to sympathize

1. What happens to Victor after Justine is put to death? What is his father's opinion of Victor's "immoderate grief"?

Victor falls into a deep depression and a dark solitude after Justine's death. His father says he must recover quickly because he has an obligation to others to be useful.

2. What keeps Victor from killing himself?

Victor feels he has an obligation to watch over the monster. He lives in deadly fear that it will commit new crimes against his father or brother; his thoughts of Elizabeth also keep him alive.

3. What effect have these events had on Elizabeth?

Elizabeth has become despondent and sad. She no longer gets enjoyment from human nature.

4. What makes Victor go to Charmounix?

The whirlwind passions of his soul drive him to seek a change in order to find some relief from his guilt.

5. Explain: “I was a wreck—but nought had changed in those savage and enduring scenes.” (Pg. 78)

He has become a wreck while nature has remained unchanged. He is still faced with the consequences of his creation.

6. As Victor climbs the mountains, what effect do they have on him?

The mountains bring to mind memories of boyhood pleasures, while the winds soothe and make him feel spiritual. Feelings of depression quickly follow.

7. Why does Victor climb Montanvent in spite of the rain?

He wants to experience the sublime ecstasy that the mountains inspire; he seeks mental and emotional peace in nature.

8. What are Victor’s feelings as his creation approaches him? What is the first thing he says to his creature?

He feels rage and horror: “Devil... do you dare approach me?” (Pg. 83)

9. Describe the expression on the creature’s face.

The creature's face shows bitter anguish combined with disdain and unearthly ugliness.

10. How does the creature respond to Victor?

He says to Victor, "How dare you sport thus with life?" (Pg.83) This quotation refers to the idea of creating and destroying life as if it were a sport. The monster shows itself to be more humane than Victor, valuing life more than his creator.

11. With what does the creature threaten Victor?

The creature demands that Victor act properly toward it, or it “will glut the maw of death, until it be satiated with the blood of your remaining friends.” (Pg. 83)

12. What does the creature say about his present position?

Although benevolent in nature, the creature says that all men, even his creator, have rejected him. He is disappointed by his isolation from society and seeks company in Victor.

13. For what reason does Victor follow the creature and listen to his story?

He tells us it is out of curiosity and compassion that he follows his creation.

Chapters XI and XII

Vocabulary

opaque - impenetrable by or not reflecting light
impervious - incapable of being penetrated, allowing no passage
dormant - inactive; resembling sleep
orb - a sphere
canopied - covered
mode - a method, way, or manner of doing something
uncouth - crude, unrefined, awkward
inarticulate - not distinct; irregular speech
offal - waste parts of a butchered animal; rubbish
assuage - to make less severe; to satisfy or appease
rambles - wanderings
disconsolate - gloomy, helplessly sad, despairing
hovel - small, miserable dwelling
barbarity - inhuman; harsh or cruel conduct; uncivilized
purloined - stolen
demeanor - the way a person looks and acts
countenance - expression of the face
imperceptible - very slight
pensive - thoughtful
symmetry - well-balanced arrangement of parts
venerable - deserving respect because of age, character, or importance
viands - food
enigmatic - an obscure riddle, puzzling, unexplainable
poignantly - very touching; keenly distressing to the mind or feelings
abstained - hold oneself back
articulate - distinctly, clear
exhortations - urgings by strong appeals
conjectured - guessed
mortification - shame, humiliation
arbiters - one who has power to judge or decide
conciliating - to overcome the hatred of; to win favor; make calm and amenable;
 pacify, reconcile
exhilarated - made lively
execration - to denounce; to hate, to abhor or loathe

1. How does the creature describe his first days of life?

He says his early days, which are confused and indistinct, are filled with a multiplicity of sensations.

2. Why does the creature decide to travel, and why is this a difficult decision for him?

He needs to look for food, but this will require him to leave the fire.

3. How does the creature respond to fire?

He is surprised that the fire can produce such opposite effects—it warms him but also burns him. The positive and negative consequences of the fire relate to Prometheus and the positive and negative consequences of knowledge.

4. What happens when the creature enters a village? Where does he end up staying?

The villagers attack him and drive him off. He finds a hovel next to a cottage in which to live.

5. How does the creature feel about the cottagers? At first, how does he react to the expression of emotions he observes them displaying?

He experiences an overpowering emotion, which is a mixture of pain and pleasure.

6. Although the creature wants to join these people, why does he decide not to?

He fears rejection because of his ugly appearance.

7. How does the creature show understanding and kindness to this family?

He stops stealing food from them and cuts their firewood.

8. What does the creature spend the winter doing, and what does this reveal about him?

He is trying to understand the language, which suggests he wants to make a human connection.

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

In a pool of water the creature sees that he is a deformed monster. This discovery makes him despondent.

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

He plans to learn their language and to find a way to help them. He feels joy and is elevated by nature.

Chapters XIII and XIV

Vocabulary

verdure - fresh greenness of flourishing vegetation
conjecture - guess or theory based on inconclusive facts
dispelling - driving away, scattering
cadence - rhythmic flow, vocal inflection
enraptured - filled with great delight
declamatory - overblown style of speaking, verbose
subsequent - following in time or order
degenerating - deteriorating or decaying; morally degrading
scion - a descendant
squalid - very dirty
unsullied - untainted, perfect cleanliness
subsist - to exist
stealth - secret or sly action
dote - to lavish excessive fondness
indignation - anger over something unjust
obnoxious - very disagreeable, offensive; hateful
flagrant - outrageous; glaring
zeal - eager desire or effort, enthusiasm
consummation - completion, fulfillment
ensuing - a consequence following immediately afterward
implements - tools
tenets - principles, beliefs
indelibly - permanently, something not easily erased
harem - multiple women living in a male-dominated dwelling, like a palace
emulation - trying to equal or excel
facilitated - made easy; helped bring about, assisted
exile - person forced to leave his or her country or home
expostulate - remonstrate in a friendly way; reason earnestly
reiterating - verbal repetition
mandate - an authoritative command
adverse - unfavorable, harmful

1. Explain the second sentence of this chapter: "I shall relate events that impressed me with feelings which...have made me what I am." (Pg. 99)

We learn that the creature is capable of changing as a result of his experiences. He is also isolated by society due to his appearance.

2. How does the creature feel about spring?

He is surprised, and his senses are gratified by the weather changes.

3. What does the creature learn that changes Felix's feelings from sorrow to joy?

The love of Felix's life, Safie, arrives.

4. What is the creature going to be able to learn now that Safie has arrived? What kind of progress does he make?

As the family teaches Safie English, the creature learns the language much faster than she. He also learns reading and history by observing their teachings.

5. Explain why Safie wants to marry Felix. How does her father feel about this?

While she loves Felix, she also cannot return to a country where women have no option of self-determination. By marrying a Christian, she escapes life in a harem. While her father encourages Felix's feelings, he secretly plans to send her away.

6. Why does Felix have to leave Safie for what he hopes is a short time?

His father and sister are put in jail.

7. What happens to Felix, his father, and sister?

They lose their fortune and are exiled to Germany.

8. What does Safie's father do while in exile?

After sending a pittance of money to Felix for his efforts, the father leaves hurriedly for Turkey because he fears he will be captured and imprisoned.

Chapters XV and XVI

Vocabulary

deprecate - express strong disapproval of

portmanteau - stiff, oblong traveling bag with two compartments opening like a book; pouch

disquisition - long or formal speech or writing about a subject

vice - fault, bad habit

patriarch - male leader of a family or clan

imbued - filled with; inspired

alluring - strongly attractive

sagacity - keen, sound judgment

supplication - humble and earnest request or prayer

mediation - friendly intervention

intrusion - coming unasked and unwanted

instigate - urge on; stir up

consternation - great dismay; paralyzing terror

tumult - commotion

wantonly - done without reason or excuse; heartlessly

havoc - ruin, injury

impotence - helplessness

myriads - countless

imprudently - unwisely

appeased - satisfied

gesticulations - lively or excited movements of body parts

soothed - calmed or comforted

spurned - refused with scorn

inanimate - lifeless

vestige - trace; track; footprint

succor - help, aid

imprecate - call down evil curses on

rustic - a country person; rough in appearance

recompense - to award compensation, to make amends for damage

imbibed - to take in, to absorb, or assimilate

ogre - monster

epithets - curses; hateful comments

benignity - kindness, graciousness

sanguinary - bloodthirsty or bloody

requisition - a demand, a requirement

1. Overall, what is the creature's reaction to the cottagers?

He wants to take part in the kindness and warmth they have for each other.

2. What is the creature's reaction to Milton's poem *Paradise Lost*? According to the creature, how is he both like and dissimilar to Adam?

Like Adam, he has disappointed his creator. Unlike Adam, he was not created by God, has no partner, and is unhappy with his existence.

3. What does the creature learn from papers found in Victor's pocket?

He learns that even his creator, Victor Frankenstein, turns from him in disgust.

4. For what does the creature hope, and what plans does he make to achieve this hope?

The monster hopes that the family will accept him and befriend him. He plans to first talk with the blind old man so that the man can convince the others that he means no harm and seeks friendship.

5. How does the old man react to the creature?

He reacts with interested sincerity.

6. What happens when the others return?

Felix attacks the creature and drives him from the house.

7. How does the creature feel? What does he wish he had done? What is his next plan?

In his despair and anger he feels more alienated than ever, but he resolves to make contact again. This time, however, he won't let the family see him until the old man speaks to them on his behalf.

8. What happens to the cottagers? What is the creature's reaction to this?

The family has left; the creature is at a loss and feels great pain and rage. He sets their cottage on fire and destroys the garden. Under the moon, he dances around the burning cottage.

9. Why does the creature decide to go to Geneva? How have these horrible circumstances changed the creature?

As a result of his rejection and isolation, he feels intense suffering and bitterness. He decides to go to Geneva to find his creator.

10. What happens that makes the creature feel even more bitter?

After he saves a girl from drowning, the girl's companion sees him and shoots him.

11. Why does the creature kill William? How does the creature feel afterward?

When William rejects his kindly overtures and says he is a Frankenstein, the creature kills William and in doing so experiences a hellish triumph.

12. What does the creature do with the portrait he takes from William?

The creature puts the picture in the folds of Justine's dress in order to make her the murder suspect.

13. What does the creature say Frankenstein must do?

He is tired of being isolated and orders Frankenstein to create a companion of the same species for him or else suffer his wrath.

Chapters XVII and XVIII

Vocabulary

concede - to acknowledge as true or proper

precipitate - to bring about suddenly; hasty; rash

insurmountable - unable to overcome

contortions - a twisting out of shape

detrimental - harmful; causing a disadvantage

detestation - hate, intense dislike

compassionate - helping those that suffer; feeling for another's sorrow

malice - a desire to hurt or harm others

feint - a false pretense, movement intended to deceive

naught - nothing

disquisition - a formal discourse

exordium - an exposition or introduction of a speech or composition

dissipate - dispel, cause to disappear

solemnization - to turn into; to observe a formal ceremony

candor - speaking openly what one thinks, giving an honest opinion

manifold - of many kinds; many and various

dilatory - tending to delay, not prompt

guise - mask; pretense

coveted - eagerly desired (usually something of someone else's)

impediment - hindrance, obstacle

intimated - suggested indirectly, hinted

machinations - evil plottings, secret schemes

acquiesced - to give in to, to consent passively

sedulous - hard-working, diligent

indolence - idleness, laziness

variegated - to give a variety of colors; to diversify

promontory - point of land extending into the water

chastened - restrained from excess, moderated

ineffectual - useless; without effect

1. Why does the creature say he is malicious? Do you think his feelings are justified and/or understandable?

He says that he is malicious only because he is miserable. Opinions may vary about whether this is justified.

2. Why does the creature think he will be happy with a female like himself? Do you agree with him? Explain why or why not.

He believes that since they will be isolated from the world, they will be strongly attached to each other. Opinions may vary on the creature's future happiness.

3. Describe Victor Frankenstein's reaction to the monster's request. What does he decide? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?

Although he feels sympathy for the creature, he first refuses to agree to its request. Later, however, he says he will comply to protect others. Students' opinions may vary on his decision.

4. What are Dr. Frankenstein's feelings when he returns home?

He is depressed and anxious over the agreement.

5. Why does Victor not want to marry Elizabeth right away?

He feels he must complete his promise to the creature before beginning a family. He would not be able to enjoy their union with the monster pursuing him.

6. Why does Victor decide to go to England? How does he feel about Henry going with him?

There are scientists in England with the knowledge he needs. He believes that if Henry accompanies him, Henry's presence would save him from lonely reflection and keep the creature at a distance.

7. Explain the following statement Victor makes: "But through the whole period during which I was the slave of my creature, I allowed myself to be governed by the impulses of the moment." (Pg. 132) Give examples of how this is true.

While he agrees to the creature's request, he has no way to hold the creature to his word; Victor is not thinking rationally enough to find another solution to the problem.

8. Contrast Henry and Victor.

Henry is positive, enthusiastic, and excited by his environment and life. Victor is withdrawn, miserable, and without imagination.

9. Describe Henry and Victor's journey. What is Henry's opinion of the area around the Rhine?

Henry thinks the mountains are majestic and put man in harmony with nature.

10. How is Henry a Romantic?

He sees great beauty in nature and expresses deep feelings and imagination.

11. How does Victor talk about Henry toward the end of this chapter?

Victor talks of him in the past tense as if he were is either dead or gone. He has become immersed in his creation and the consequences of it.

Chapters XIX and XX

Vocabulary

afforded - to have the financial means for

profound - coming from the depths of one's being; extremely thoughtful

transitory - existing briefly, short-lived

debar - to exclude, forbid, prevent

alleging - stating positively as a reason or excuse

palpitate - beat very rapidly, throb

novelties - new or unusual things

expedite - make easy; speed up

remissness - negligence, carelessness in doing what one has to do

languid - weak, lacking energy or vitality

antiquity - things from times long ago, great age

rendezvous - meeting place

congenial - agreeable

dissuade - to discourage from a purpose or course of action by persuasion

remonstrate - to protest or object

benumbed - to make numb or inactive

tumult - commotion, noise, or uproar

immersed - absorbed; involved deeply

unremitting - incessant, persistent

malignant - highly injurious, showing ill-will

provocation - causing someone irritation

propagated - to reproduce

sophisms - a plausible but mistaken argument

profundity - a deep intellectual ability

presentiment - premonition, a sense of something about to occur

condescension - patronizing manner

wiliness - calculating

inexorable - relentless; not capable of being persuaded by pleas

insuperable - insurmountable, incapable of being overcome

atrocious - horrible, cruel, extremely evil

reverie - dreamy thoughts, thinking of pleasant things

cultivation - preparing land for crops by plowing and planting

debility - feebleness

politic - prudent; wise in looking out for one's own interests

fortitude - courage in facing pain or danger

1. Describe Victor's feelings as he journeys through England.

He does not feel that he is good company because there is a bothersome barrier between him and his fellow man.

2. Why does Victor decide to go to Scotland?

It is an isolated and beautiful place where he can be close to nature.

3. Describe the place he picks to work. How does he feel about his labors?

He picks a rocky island with barren soil and great poverty, which is beaten by waves. He begins, in an enthusiastic frenzy, to complete his work, but his heart is sickened by it and he regrets his decision.

4. Give four reasons why Victor changes his mind. Do you agree with his reasoning? Do you see anything wrong in his decision?

- 1. The female creature may be more evil than the first creature.*
- 2. She has made no promise to live an isolated life.*
- 3. She might reject the first creature and then there would be two wild ones.*
- 4. Worse yet, they might propagate a new race.*

Opinions may vary about the validity of his reasoning and his decision.

5. What opinion does Victor have of his creation? Do you agree with this assessment of the creature?

He believes the creature to be a wicked demon. Opinions may vary about this evaluation. One possibility is that the creature has been made wicked by society. The creature was made an outcast because of his appearance and only sought after friendship.

6. What does Victor do after realizing the potential problems of creating a female monster? Who observes his actions?

He destroys the female creature he has been laboring over. The monster observes the destruction and screams.

7. What is your reaction to the creature's speech? Do you agree with him at all? Do you think Victor has treated him fairly?

Answers may vary. One possibility is that Victor has been unfair in abandoning his creation, leaving it to be isolated by society. Victor should create a female companion to alleviate the monster's loneliness.

8. When does the creature say he will get his revenge?

The creature says, "I shall be with you on your wedding-night." (Pg. 143) Enraged, Victor wants to kill the creature, but it escapes.

9. Why does Victor leave Scotland?

The arrival of Henry's letter prompts him to leave Scotland.

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

Victor has to get rid of the half-finished creature or the horror of its remains will excite the suspicions of the peasants. His efforts may be discovered, and he fears the consequences.

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

He falls asleep in the boat and awakens up during a fierce storm, which he does not think he will survive.

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

He is arrested for murder.

Chapters XXI and XXII

Vocabulary

benevolent - kind, good natured, charitable
deposed - declared under oath
supposition - the act of believing an unproven statement; an assumption
augury - act of predicting the future; an omen
apothecary - druggist or pharmacist
interment - placement in the grave
squalidness - having a dirty appearance
languid - feeling weak; indifferent
livid - ashen or pallid (usually due to anger)
retrospect - a review or contemplation of past events
incitement - to stir up, urge on, or provoke to anger
repugnance - offensive, repulsive
delirium - a clouded mental state, confusion
precarious - uncertain, dangerous, risky
enraptured - to move to delight
vexations - those problems that irritate or annoy
torpor - apathy; condition of inactivity
in quietude - a state of uneasiness
laudanum - an opium-based drug
indefatigable - untiring, tireless
erroneous - mistaken
unhallowed - unholy
consternation - sudden confusion or dismay
curbed - anything that is checked or restrained
imperious - domineering, overbearing, urgent
formidable - arousing dread or awe
augmented - to increase or make more
futurity - a future event or possibility
enunciate - to pronounce clearly; articulate
consecrate - to make sacred
emaciated - extremely thin (usually by starvation or illness)
vivacity - liveliness, spirited
tangible - real, concrete
artifice - ingenuity, subtle deception
nuptial - marriage or wedding ceremony

1. Who has been murdered, and why is Victor accused of the murder?

Henry Clerval has been murdered, and Victor is accused because witnesses saw a single man in a boat leaving the scene. The boat resembles the one in which Victor has come ashore.

2. How does Victor feel when he regains consciousness?

He wishes he were dead.

3. What finally brings about his release?

He was able to prove he was on the island when Henry's body was discovered.

4. Why does Victor want to return home? How has his mental condition deteriorated?

Victor returns home to protect Elizabeth. He has become suicidal and requires medication.

5. Why does Victor feel he can't be with people? What opinion does Victor express about his creation?

Victor feels guilty about being among people because he has unchained an enemy among them. Victor believes the creature finds joy in his crimes. He is unable to see that the creature mourns his isolation and sought only companionship.

6. Why doesn't Victor tell of the creature's existence and its crimes? Do you think he is right or wrong?

If the people do not think he is insane, they will feel continual fear and horror. Answers will vary.

7. What is his father's opinion of Victor?

Victor's father believes that Victor is deranged.

8. The monster vowed to be with Victor on his wedding night. What has Victor assumed the monster's meant? Could it have some other meaning?

Victor assumes the monster meant to kill him on his wedding night; Victor does not consider that his bride could be the target.

9. Why does Victor decide to marry Elizabeth immediately?

He believes it will make both Elizabeth and his father happy if he gets married.

10. What will Victor tell Elizabeth after they are married? Give your opinion of this plan.

Victor plans to tell Elizabeth about the creature and the evil it has done. Opinions may vary.

11. What precautions has Victor taken?

He has gotten together pistols and daggers.

12. How does Elizabeth feel about the wedding? Why is she anxious?

She feels contentment and also fear. She knows Victor is miserable because of so much suffering in the past; she is afraid this apparent happiness is a dream.

13. What do you think will happen on Victor's wedding night?

Answers may vary. One possibility is that Victor has a mate to share his life with, while the monster remains isolated. Victor is capable of providing the monster with a partner, but refuses to do so. In the monster's jealous rage, he threatens to harm Victor on his wedding night.

Chapters XXIII and XXIV

Vocabulary

adversary - opponent, enemy
acme - the point of highest achievement
reconciled - to reestablish friendship or love
invective - an abusive speech; violent attack with words
incredulity - disbelieving, skeptical
physiognomy - facial features that reveal characteristics
proportionate - to adjust so that there are proper relations between parts
martyr - one who sacrifices, suffers, or dies for principles
abjuration - giving up
extricate - to release from entanglement or difficulty; disengage
invoked - to call upon a higher power for aid
bedim - to make less bright
repose - to rest
enjoined - commanded; prohibited
instigated - urged on
impassive - revealing no emotion, expressionless
ecstasy - condition of great joy, rapture
gibe - to taunt; to make mocking remarks
sentiment - an opinion based on emotions not fact
retribution - punishment; something demanded in payment; vengeance; requital for some wrong that has been done
protraction - prolonging
disencumbered - to relieve or free from hindrance
appalling - causing horror, terrifying
congeal - to solidify
imprecations - curses
posterity - generations of the future
illustrious - celebrated; famous
infantile - babyish, childish
eradicated - to destroy totally; to erase
fraught - attended; accompanied
imminent - about to occur
deputation - a group appointed to represent others
immure - to imprison
modulate - to regulate; to vary the frequency of
languor - spiritlessness, sluggishness
renounce - give up formally
irradiation - illuminations, brightness
purport - to claim or profess the main idea
opprobrium - disgrace arising from shameful conduct
contumely - insulting treatment
execrate - to denounce, to abhor
irremediable - incurable, impossible to remedy
consummate - to complete, to fulfill
rankle - to cause irritation
conflagration - a big and destructive fire

1. What is Victor's plan for dealing with the creature?

He plans to fight the creature until one of them is dead.

2. Why does Victor ask Elizabeth to retire without him? What sends him running to the bedroom?

He wants to find the creature and kill it. After Elizabeth retires, Victor hears terrible cries from the room.

3. What happens to Elizabeth in the bedroom? How does Victor's father react to this bad news?

Elizabeth is killed by the monster much to Victor's horror. Victor's father dies of sorrow after he hears the news. The monster has isolated Victor, making Victor feel the same pains he has felt.

4. What action does Victor take? What is the result?

Victor tells a magistrate his story. The magistrate feels the situation is hopeless, since it will be impossible to catch the creature.

5. Victor, in his anger, says to the magistrate, "How ignorant art thou in thy pride of wisdom!" (Pg. 170) What is the irony in this?

It is Victor's pride and wisdom that has led him to create the monster.

6. Where does Victor meet his creature again, and why does the creature say he is satisfied?

They meet again in the graveyard. Now, since Victor feels as miserable and alone as the creature, it is satisfied.

7. How does the creature further torture Victor? Where is he leading Victor, and for what purpose?

The creature leaves messages for Victor, leading him north, to the land of cold and misery where they will have their final battle.

8. What does Victor ask of Walton?

Victor asks the captain to kill the creature if Walton sees it.

9. In his great despair, what is the only consolation Victor gets?

When Victor sleeps, he dreams and experiences a communion with his departed loved ones.

10. Explain Victor's statement: "When I reflected on the work I had completed, no less a one than the creation of a sensitive and rational animal, I could not rank myself with the herd of common projectors... All my speculations and hopes are as nothing; and, like the archangel who aspired to omnipotence, I am chained in an eternal hell." (Pgs. 177-178)

At one point, he was very proud of his creation and the work that has gone into that creation; now, like the prideful angel who fell from grace in Milton's Paradise Lost, he is in an eternal hell.

11. Why does Walton dread a mutiny by his crew? What opinion does Victor express to the men concerning continuing the journey?

The ship is surrounded by ice mountains and is in danger of being crushed. The men wish to return home, but Victor tells them that they should not allow their lack of courage to hold them back in their great purpose.

12. What advice does Victor give Walton?

Victor tells Walton to seek happiness in tranquility and avoid ambition.

14. In your opinion, is the justification the creature offers for his actions adequate? What is his plan now?

Answers to the first question may vary.

The creature says he plans to go further north and, once he is there, he will kill himself.

Frankenstein

Study Guide Student Copy

Prologue

Vocabulary

fervent - passionate, glowing

perpetual - never ending, eternal

diffusing - to pour out, spread

phenomena - fact, event, or circumstance that can be observed, usually considered extraordinary or remarkable

eccentricities - deviating from a conventional pattern

ardent - characterized by strong enthusiasm

induce - to persuade

requisite - required; a necessity

dominion - sphere of influence or control

tranquilize - to make calm, peaceful, quiet

effusions - a pouring out of unrestrained expressions or feelings

inuring - to become used to something undesirable by prolonged subjection

dauntless - without fright or discouragement

inexorable - relentless, unyielding

allusion - reference to a historically significant person, place, or event

solicitude - concern, anxious care

capitulated - surrender on terms or conditions

repose - rest or sleep

conciliating - reconciling, a winning over

paroxysm - a spasm, fit, or sudden outburst

ameliorate - improve, to become or make better

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?
2. How has the narrator, Robert Walton, prepared for his great enterprise? What gives him the idea?

3. Why does Walton want a friend? How does he define a friend?
4. Walton says he is a “Romantic.” What is a Romantic person like?
5. What time of year is it when Walton begins his voyage?
6. Describe the strange thing that is seen by Walton and his crew.
7. Describe the man who later is brought on the ship. What does the man ask that is astonishing to Walton? Why do you suppose he asks this; what does he want to do? How does Walton feel about this man? Why?
8. How does this man react to Walton’s dream or goal?
9. What story is the stranger going to tell Walton? Why is he going to share this story?
10. Who do you suppose will be the narrator of Chapter I?

Chapters I and II

Vocabulary

indefatigable - tireless
intimate - very familiar, close
rankling - soreness, great pain
plaited - weave, braid
pittance - very small amount; a trifling
disconsolate - hopelessly sad
interment - burial
recompensing - reward; pay back, or payment
penury - very great poverty
chamois - small, goat-like antelope
ardor - great intensity; passion; strong enthusiasm
sublime - exalted; inspiring awe
rapture - elation; exhilaration
infidels - without religion or belief; an atheist
indulgence - liberal or lenient treatment
caprice - impulsive change of mind, whim
filial - affectionate; obedient; pertaining to a son or daughter
metaphysical - mystical, abstract, spiritual
predilection - preference, partiality
inclemency - severity of weather, stormy
chimerical - illusionary, fanciful, dreamlike
avidity - eagerness; greediness
imbued - filled with ideas, feelings, etc.
tyros - beginners, amateurs
tertiary - third place or rank
impediments - hindrance; block
repined - express discontent
averred - to declare in a positive, formal way
progeny - children, descendants, offspring
immutable - not susceptible to change

1. What are Frankenstein's parents like? How do they feel about each other and about their child?
2. Who is Elizabeth? Describe her. How does she come to join the Frankenstein family?

3. How do people react to Elizabeth? How does Victor feel about Elizabeth?
4. How are Victor and Elizabeth different? What kind of person is Victor?
5. Who is Henry Clerval? What is he like? How is he different from Victor?
6. How does Elizabeth affect Victor and Henry?
7. At age eighteen what does Victor say is his passion, and what is the eventual result of it?
8. What does Victor want to accomplish in life?
9. Why does Victor turn to the study of mathematics? What prevents him from continuing this study?

Chapters III and IV

Vocabulary

menaced - threatened, put in peril

imprudence - unwise

prognosticated - to predict on the basis of present indications

fortitude - valor; determination

benignity - kindly disposition; gracious

irreparable - hopeless, irreversible

deferred - to put off, delay, postpone

zeal - eagerness, enthusiast

chaise - two-wheeled, open carriage

imbued - saturated, filled

reprobate - morally unprincipled person

recapitulation - the act of being repeated; summarized

panegyric - speech filled with praise, compliments

elixir - sweetened solution containing medicine

palpable - acceptable to the mind or sensibilities

mien - appearance, look

erroneously - mistakenly

physiognomy - facial features which reveal characteristics

dogmatism - authoritarian assertion of opinion

pedant - one who flaunts learning

abstruse - difficult to understand

facile - achieved with little effort

esteem - high regard, favorable opinion

receptacle - a container or place for keeping things

emaciated - starved, extremely thin

unhallowed - not sacred, wicked, sinful, evil

incipient - just beginning, early stage

1. Identify the misfortune which he views as an omen of his future misery before he leaves for the university.
2. What does Victor's mother say she wants for Victor and Elizabeth?

3. Henry cannot accompany Victor to the university, why?
4. How does Henry's father relate to the themes of power and friendship?
5. Why does Victor not want to study the contemporary scientists suggested by M. Krempe?
6. After hearing Mr. Waldman's lectures, what does Victor plan to do?
7. After two years of study, why does Victor consider going home?
8. During Victor's study of anatomy, what is it that keeps him from going home? What does he discover?

9. Why does Victor refuse to explain to Walton what he has discovered?
10. What task does Victor begin? Describe Victor's feelings as he goes about his task.
11. What kind of studies does Victor say people should avoid?
12. What happens to Victor near the completion of his task?

Chapters V and VI

Vocabulary

delineate - describe in words

lassitude - weariness

shroud - burial cloth or garments

demoniacal - devilish, very wicked

palpitation - throbbing, beating rapidly

languor - lack of enthusiasm

allude - hint at, mention slightly

unremitting - steady

pertinacity - great persistence, not giving up, continuing, stubbornness

remorse - deep, painful regret

fetter - restrain, tie up

placid - peaceful, quiet

perversity - abnormality, difference

dissipate - totally scatter, dispel

vivacity - liveliness

vacillating - unsteady, wavering

antipathy - strong dislike, hate

encomiums - songs of praise, highly complimentary

diffident - lacking in self-confidence

eulogy - speech or writing in praise of the dead

dilatoriness - lateness, not prompt

perambulations - walks or strolls

salubrious - healthful

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?
3. Describe Victor Frankenstein's disturbed dream.

4. What does Frankenstein do when the creature reaches out to him? What do you think is the creature's reason for reaching out for Dr. Frankenstein?
5. How does Victor feel when he realizes his creation has left his apartment? How does he behave right after this realization?
6. What does Victor find very tormenting?
7. After creating the monster, what does Victor study now?
8. According to Victor, why is Henry a good friend to him?
9. Describe Henry's mood at the end of this chapter.

Chapters VII and VIII

Vocabulary

prognosticate - to forecast, to predict from facts

tedious - long and tiring

promontory - a high point of land extending from the coast into the land

dirge - funeral song

precipices - cliff, crag, steep mountainside

venerable - worthy of respect or reverence due to age, character, or importance

alleviate - to relieve, to lessen, to make easier

deposition - testimony under oath or sworn testimony in writing

candor - speaking honestly, frankness, sincerity

mockery - to ridicule, to make fun of

ignominious - shameful, disgraceful, dishonorable

exculpated - to free from blame, prove guiltless

countenance - facial expressions

execrated - detested, abhorred

adduced - to give as proof or evidence

indignation - anger at something unworthy or unjust

conjecture - guess, theorize

wantonly - done in a reckless and malicious way; not moral

timorous - timid, easily frightened

approbation - approval, favorable opinion

guile - deceit, sly tricks

absolution - freeing from guilt or blame

excommunication - a cutting off or removal from the church

obdurate - stubborn, obstinate; not repentant

perdition - loss of one's soul; utter loss or destruction

lamentations - cries of sorrow or grief, wailing, mourning

1. What tragedy happens in Victor's family?
2. How does Victor feel as he nears his home?
3. What does Victor see in the midst of a violent thunderstorm?

4. For what reason does Victor decide to remain silent about his monster?
5. Who has been accused of the murder and for what reason?
6. Why does Victor not tell anyone about his creation to clear Justine's name?
7. Why does Victor think that Justine's tortures do not equal his own?
8. Why does Elizabeth's speech in court hurt Justine?
9. How does Justine show her goodness?
10. Do you think Victor is as guilty as he feels he is? Of what do you think he is guilty, if anything?

Chapters IX and X

Vocabulary

remorse - deep, painful regret for having done wrong

perceptible - to become aware of or understood through the senses

augmenting - making greater in size, number or amount; increasing

malice - a desire to hurt or harm others

unalterable - not changeable, permanent

efface - rub out, to obliterate

abhorrence - intense dislike

desponding - becoming disheartened

sacrilege - an intentional injury to anything sacred

ephemeral - transitory; lasting for a brief time

epoch - beginning of a period of time or era when something striking happens

impetuous - impulsive, brash; rushing with violence

reverberated - resounded; reflected

anon - soon, in a short time

rent - to rip, to make an opening

divert - to turn aside from a direction; to distract or amuse

pinnacle - the highest point

surmount - to overcome; to ascend to the top and cross over

mutability - ability to change

diabolically - devilishly, wickedly

dissoluble - capable of being dissolved

negligently - habitually guilty of neglect

irrevocably - incapable of being retracted or revoked

commiserate - to feel or express sorrow or pity; to sympathize

1. What happens to Victor after Justine is put to death? What is his father's opinion of Victor's "immoderate grief"?
2. What keeps Victor from killing himself?
3. What effect have these events had on Elizabeth?

4. What makes Victor go to Charmounix?
5. Explain: “*I was a wreck—but nought had changed in those savage and enduring scenes.*” (Pg. 78)
6. As Victor climbs the mountains, what effect do they have on him?
7. Why does Victor climb Montanvent in spite of the rain?
8. What are Victor’s feelings as his creation approaches him? What is the first thing he says to his creature?
9. Describe the expression on the creature’s face.

10. How does the creature respond to Victor?
11. With what does the creature threaten Victor?
12. What does the creature say about his present position?
13. For what reason does Victor follow the creature and listen to his story?

Chapters XI and XII

Vocabulary

opaque - impenetrable by or not reflecting light
impervious - incapable of being penetrated, allowing no passage
dormant - inactive; resembling sleep
orb - a sphere
canopied - covered
mode - a method, way, or manner of doing something
uncouth - crude, unrefined, awkward
inarticulate - not distinct; irregular speech
offal - waste parts of a butchered animal; rubbish
assuage - to make less severe; to satisfy or appease
rambles - wanderings
disconsolate - gloomy, helplessly sad, despairing
hovel - small, miserable dwelling
barbarity - inhuman; harsh or cruel conduct; uncivilized
purloined - stolen
demeanor - the way a person looks and acts
countenance - expression of the face
imperceptible - very slight
pensive - thoughtful
symmetry - well-balanced arrangement of parts
venerable - deserving respect because of age, character, or importance
viands - food
enigmatic - an obscure riddle, puzzling, unexplainable
poignantly - very touching; keenly distressing to the mind or feelings
abstained - hold oneself back
articulate - distinctly, clear
exhortations - urgings by strong appeals
conjectured - guessed
mortification - shame, humiliation
arbiters - one who has power to judge or decide
conciliating - to overcome the hatred of; to win favor; make calm and amenable;
 pacify, reconcile
exhilarated - made lively
execration - to denounce; to hate, to abhor or loathe

1. How does the creature describe his first days of life?

2. Why does the creature decide to travel, and why is this a difficult decision for him?
3. How does the creature respond to fire?
4. What happens when the creature enters a village? Where does he end up staying?
5. How does the creature feel about the cottagers? At first, how does he react to the expression of emotions he observes them displaying?
6. Although the creature wants to join these people, why does he decide not to?
7. How does the creature show understanding and kindness to this family?

8. What does the creature spend the winter doing, and what does this reveal about him?
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?

Chapters XIII and XIV

Vocabulary

verdure - fresh greenness of flourishing vegetation
conjecture - guess or theory based on inconclusive facts
dispelling - driving away, scattering
cadence - rhythmic flow, vocal inflection
enraptured - filled with great delight
declamatory - overblown style of speaking, verbose
subsequent - following in time or order
degenerating - deteriorating or decaying; morally degrading
scion - a descendant
squalid - very dirty
unsullied - untainted, perfect cleanliness
subsist - to exist
stealth - secret or sly action
dote - to lavish excessive fondness
indignation - anger over something unjust
obnoxious - very disagreeable, offensive; hateful
flagrant - outrageous; glaring
zeal - eager desire or effort, enthusiasm
consummation - completion, fulfillment
ensuing - a consequence following immediately afterward
implements - tools
tenets - principles, beliefs
indelibly - permanently, something not easily erased
harem - multiple women living in a male-dominated dwelling, like a palace
emulation - trying to equal or excel
facilitated - made easy; helped bring about, assisted
exile - person forced to leave his or her country or home
expostulate - remonstrate in a friendly way; reason earnestly
reiterating - verbal repetition
mandate - an authoritative command
adverse - unfavorable, harmful

1. Explain the second sentence of this chapter: "I shall relate events that impressed me with feelings which...have made me what I am." (Pg. 99)
2. How does the creature feel about spring?

3. What does the creature learn that changes Felix's feelings from sorrow to joy?
4. What is the creature going to be able to learn now that Safie has arrived? What kind of progress does he make?
5. Explain why Safie wants to marry Felix. How does her father feel about this?
6. Why does Felix have to leave Safie for what he hopes is a short time?
7. What happens to Felix, his father, and sister?
8. What does Safie's father do while in exile?

Chapters XV and XVI

Vocabulary

deprecate - express strong disapproval of

portmanteau - stiff, oblong traveling bag with two compartments opening like a book; pouch

disquisition - long or formal speech or writing about a subject

vice - fault, bad habit

patriarch - male leader of a family or clan

imbued - filled with; inspired

alluring - strongly attractive

sagacity - keen, sound judgment

supplication - humble and earnest request or prayer

mediation - friendly intervention

intrusion - coming unasked and unwanted

instigate - urge on; stir up

consternation - great dismay; paralyzing terror

tumult - commotion

wantonly - done without reason or excuse; heartlessly

havoc - ruin, injury

impotence - helplessness

myriads - countless

imprudently - unwisely

appeased - satisfied

gesticulations - lively or excited movements of body parts

soothed - calmed or comforted

spurned - refused with scorn

inanimate - lifeless

vestige - trace; track; footprint

succor - help, aid

imprecate - call down evil curses on

rustic - a country person; rough in appearance

recompense - to award compensation, to make amends for damage

imbibed - to take in, to absorb, or assimilate

ogre - monster

epithets - curses; hateful comments

benignity - kindness, graciousness

sanguinary - bloodthirsty or bloody

requisition - a demand, a requirement

1. Overall, what is the creature's reaction to the cottagers?

2. What is the creature's reaction to Milton's poem *Paradise Lost*? According to the creature, how is he both like and dissimilar to Adam?
3. What does the creature learn from papers found in Victor's pocket?
4. For what does the creature hope, and what plans does he make to achieve this hope?
5. How does the old man react to the creature?
6. What happens when the others return?
7. How does the creature feel? What does he wish he had done? What is his next plan?

8. What happens to the cottagers? What is the creature's reaction to this?
9. Why does the creature decide to go to Geneva? How have these horrible circumstances changed the creature?
10. What happens that makes the creature feel even more bitter?
11. Why does the creature kill William? How does the creature feel afterward?
12. What does the creature do with the portrait he takes from William?
13. What does the creature say Frankenstein must do?

Chapters XVII and XVIII

Vocabulary

concede - to acknowledge as true or proper

precipitate - to bring about suddenly; hasty; rash

insurmountable - unable to overcome

contortions - a twisting out of shape

detrimental - harmful; causing a disadvantage

detestation - hate, intense dislike

compassionate - helping those that suffer; feeling for another's sorrow

malice - a desire to hurt or harm others

feint - a false pretense, movement intended to deceive

naught - nothing

disquisition - a formal discourse

exordium - an exposition or introduction of a speech or composition

dissipate - dispel, cause to disappear

solemnization - to turn into; to observe a formal ceremony

candor - speaking openly what one thinks, giving an honest opinion

manifold - of many kinds; many and various

dilatory - tending to delay, not prompt

guise - mask; pretense

coveted - eagerly desired (usually something of someone else's)

impediment - hindrance, obstacle

intimated - suggested indirectly, hinted

machinations - evil plottings, secret schemes

acquiesced - to give in to, to consent passively

sedulous - hard-working, diligent

indolence - idleness, laziness

variegated - to give a variety of colors; to diversify

promontory - point of land extending into the water

chastened - restrained from excess, moderated

ineffectual - useless; without effect

1. Why does the creature say he is malicious? Do you think his feelings are justified and/or understandable?
2. Why does the creature think he will be happy with a female like himself? Do you agree with him? Explain why or why not.

3. Describe Victor Frankenstein's reaction to the monster's request. What does he decide? Do you agree with his decision? Why or why not?
4. What are Dr. Frankenstein's feelings when he returns home?
5. Why does Victor not want to marry Elizabeth right away?
6. Why does Victor decide to go to England? How does he feel about Henry going with him?
7. Explain the following statement Victor makes: "But through the whole period during which I was the slave of my creature, I allowed myself to be governed by the impulses of the moment." (Pg. 132) Give examples of how this is true.
8. Contrast Henry and Victor.

11. How does Victor talk about Henry toward the end of this chapter?

Chapters XIX and XX

Vocabulary

afforded - to have the financial means for

profound - coming from the depths of one's being; extremely thoughtful

transitory - existing briefly, short-lived

debar - to exclude, forbid, prevent

alleging - stating positively as a reason or excuse

palpitate - beat very rapidly, throb

novelties - new or unusual things

expedite - make easy; speed up

remissness - negligence, carelessness in doing what one has to do

languid - weak, lacking energy or vitality

antiquity - things from times long ago, great age

rendezvous - meeting place

congenial - agreeable

dissuade - to discourage from a purpose or course of action by persuasion

remonstrate - to protest or object

benumbed - to make numb or inactive

tumult - commotion, noise, or uproar

immersed - absorbed; involved deeply

unremitting - incessant, persistent

malignant - highly injurious, showing ill-will

provocation - causing someone irritation

propagated - to reproduce

sophisms - a plausible but mistaken argument

profundity - a deep intellectual ability

presentiment - premonition, a sense of something about to occur

condescension - patronizing manner

wiliness - calculating

inexorable - relentless; not capable of being persuaded by pleas

insuperable - insurmountable, incapable of being overcome

atrocious - horrible, cruel, extremely evil

reverie - dreamy thoughts, thinking of pleasant things

cultivation - preparing land for crops by plowing and planting

debility - feebleness

politic - prudent; wise in looking out for one's own interests

fortitude - courage in facing pain or danger

1. Describe Victor's feelings as he journeys through England.

2. Why does Victor decide to go to Scotland?
3. Describe the place he picks to work. How does he feel about his labors?
4. Give four reasons why Victor changes his mind. Do you agree with his reasoning? Do you see anything wrong in his decision?
5. What opinion does Victor have of his creation? Do you agree with this assessment of the creature?
6. What does Victor do after realizing the potential problems of creating a female monster? Who observes his actions?

7. What is your reaction to the creature's speech? Do you agree with him at all? Do you think Victor has treated him fairly?
8. When does the creature say he will get his revenge?
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?

Chapters XXI and XXII

Vocabulary

benevolent - kind, good natured, charitable
deposed - declared under oath
supposition - the act of believing an unproven statement; an assumption
augury - act of predicting the future; an omen
apothecary - druggist or pharmacist
interment - placement in the grave
squalidness - having a dirty appearance
languid - feeling weak; indifferent
livid - ashen or pallid (usually due to anger)
retrospect - a review or contemplation of past events
incitement - to stir up, urge on, or provoke to anger
repugnance - offensive, repulsive
delirium - a clouded mental state, confusion
precarious - uncertain, dangerous, risky
enraptured - to move to delight
vexations - those problems that irritate or annoy
torpor - apathy; condition of inactivity
in quietude - a state of uneasiness
laudanum - an opium-based drug
indefatigable - untiring, tireless
erroneous - mistaken
unhallowed - unholy
consternation - sudden confusion or dismay
curbed - anything that is checked or restrained
imperious - domineering, overbearing, urgent
formidable - arousing dread or awe
augmented - to increase or make more
futurity - a future event or possibility
enunciate - to pronounce clearly; articulate
consecrate - to make sacred
emaciated - extremely thin (usually by starvation or illness)
vivacity - liveliness, spirited
tangible - real, concrete
artifice - ingenuity, subtle deception
nuptial - marriage or wedding ceremony

1. Who has been murdered, and why is Victor accused of the murder?

2. How does Victor feel when he regains consciousness?
3. What finally brings about his release?
4. Why does Victor want to return home? How has his mental condition deteriorated?
5. Why does Victor feel he can't be with people? What opinion does Victor express about his creation?
6. Why doesn't Victor tell of the creature's existence and its crimes? Do you think he is right or wrong?
7. What is his father's opinion of Victor?

8. The monster vowed to be with Victor on his wedding night. What has Victor assumed the monster's meant? Could it have some other meaning?
9. Why does Victor decide to marry Elizabeth immediately?
10. What will Victor tell Elizabeth after they are married? Give your opinion of this plan.
11. What precautions has Victor taken?
12. How does Elizabeth feel about the wedding? Why is she anxious?
13. What do you think will happen on Victor's wedding night?

Chapters XXIII and XXIV

Vocabulary

adversary - opponent, enemy
acme - the point of highest achievement
reconciled - to reestablish friendship or love
invective - an abusive speech; violent attack with words
incredulity - disbelieving, skeptical
physiognomy - facial features that reveal characteristics
proportionate - to adjust so that there are proper relations between parts
martyr - one who sacrifices, suffers, or dies for principles
abjuration - giving up
extricate - to release from entanglement or difficulty; disengage
invoked - to call upon a higher power for aid
bedim - to make less bright
repose - to rest
enjoined - commanded; prohibited
instigated - urged on
impassive - revealing no emotion, expressionless
ecstasy - condition of great joy, rapture
gibe - to taunt; to make mocking remarks
sentiment - an opinion based on emotions not fact
retribution - punishment; something demanded in payment; vengeance; requital for some wrong that has been done
protraction - prolonging
disencumbered - to relieve or free from hindrance
appalling - causing horror, terrifying
congeal - to solidify
imprecations - curses
posterity - generations of the future
illustrious - celebrated; famous
infantile - babyish, childish
eradicated - to destroy totally; to erase
fraught - attended; accompanied
imminent - about to occur
deputation - a group appointed to represent others
immure - to imprison
modulate - to regulate; to vary the frequency of
languor - spiritlessness, sluggishness
renounce - give up formally
irradiation - illuminations, brightness
purport - to claim or profess the main idea
opprobrium - disgrace arising from shameful conduct
contumely - insulting treatment
execrate - to denounce, to abhor
irremediable - incurable, impossible to remedy
consummate - to complete, to fulfill
rankle - to cause irritation
conflagration - a big and destructive fire

1. What is Victor's plan for dealing with the creature?
2. Why does Victor ask Elizabeth to retire without him? What sends him running to the bedroom?
3. What happens to Elizabeth in the bedroom? How does Victor's father react to this bad news?
4. What action does Victor take? What is the result?
5. Victor, in his anger, says to the magistrate, "How ignorant art thou in thy pride of wisdom!" (Pg. 170) What is the irony in this?
6. Where does Victor meet his creature again, and why does the creature say he is satisfied?
7. How does the creature further torture Victor? Where is he leading Victor, and for what purpose?

8. What does Victor ask of Walton?
9. In his great despair, what is the only consolation Victor gets?
10. Explain Victor's statement: "When I reflected on the work I had completed, no less a one than the creation of a sensitive and rational animal, I could not rank myself with the herd of common projectors... All my speculations and hopes are as nothing; and, like the archangel who aspired to omnipotence, I am chained in an eternal hell." (Pg. 177-178)
11. Why does Walton dread a mutiny by his crew? What opinion does Victor express to the men concerning continuing the journey?
12. What advice does Victor give Walton?
14. In your opinion, is the justification the creature offers for his actions adequate? What is his plan now?

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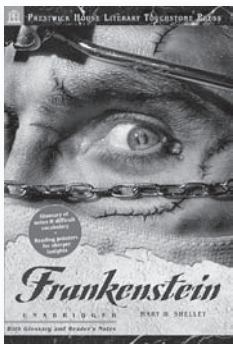
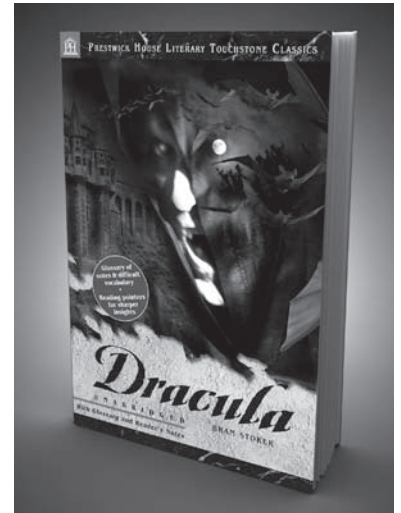
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