

Guide of Frankenstein (get it?)

The book is essentially a story within a story within letters (whew!). The fancy term for this is a **frame narrative**.

The first 4 letters are from a man named Robert Walton. He's an English explorer traveling to the North Pole when he encounters a man on a floating slab of ice. The man, Victor Frankenstein, tells his story to Walton, which starts chapter 1.

When chapter 1 begins, "I am by birth a Genevese," it is the voice of VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN. He describes his childhood and how he gets into science, eventually describing how he makes the creature. Remember, Frankenstein is the inventor and scientist—the creature is usually referred to as the Creature, the Being or the Monster. Victor tells his story from chapters 1-10.

Chapter 11 begins the voice of the MONSTER telling his story (through Victor). He tells of his first memories, his experience out in the world, and why he decides to turn against humans. The monster's story runs from chapters 11-16.

Chapter 17 moves back to VICTOR's narration, which continues until page 199, when Walton resumes his letter to his sister. In theory, the whole book is a letter to his sister, but Walton is just writing down what Victor has told him.

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

1. **As you read, take notes to identify the following. Don't drive yourself crazy, but make sure you can identify each of these characters and can fully explain the role they play in the story!**

1. Robert Walton
2. Margaret Seville
3. "the stranger" Walton meets (sort of a trick question)
4. Caroline Beaufort
5. Elizabeth
6. Henry Clerval
7. Ingolstadt (a place)
8. William and Ernest
9. Justine
10. Felix, Agatha, Mr. Delacey



2. **Respond to ONE of the following in a TYPED sophisticated, well-organized paragraph that uses at least TWO quotations from the book:**

- What is the significance of the monster's having no name?
- Who is the master and who is the slave in this novel?
- In what ways does Victor Frankenstein act like a typical adolescent?
- If you were a juror, would you find the monster guilty of/responsible for his crimes?
- What was the main lesson Mary Shelley wanted her readers to learn?
- How do race, class and gender play a role in the novel?
- Shelley gave her novel the subtitle "The Modern Prometheus." How is this subtitle appropriate (or not)?

3. Be able to cite examples of FIVE of the themes listed below. You might want to use post-it notes to mark significant quotations/passages in the book as you read. Your work in this department might end up helping you in a graded class discussion, an oral commentary practice, an essay, or all three!

1. The importance of external, superficial appearance
2. Victor's tragic flaw (hint: see page 39 for the first hint)
3. Man vs. Nature/God
4. The responsibility of parents
5. The pursuit of education, particularly self-education
6. Reason (thought) vs. Emotion (feeling)
7. Different ways to define one's identity
8. Growth (or lack thereof) from childhood to adulthood
9. Pros and cons of revenge
10. Necessity of companionship

4. Make a list of THREE motifs and/or symbols, explaining in a sentence or two the role they play in the novel.

motif: a recurrent thematic element in an artistic or literary work; or, a dominant theme or central idea.

symbol: a physical object that represents an idea, emotion, or character

DUE DATES:

NOTEBOOK CHECK: A-day: Tuesday, September 6
B-day: Wednesday, September 7

QUESTION PARAGRAPH: A-day: Thursday, September 8
B-day: Friday, September 9

DO NOT USE SPARKNOTES or any other online aid!

If you struggle to understand the book and its themes, use the databases available to you 24 hours a day on the RBR website. Go to the "Student" tab and choose "Media Center," then "Online Database." The password to all sites is RBRHS.

Literature Resource Center:

Remember to click on "Name of work" when searching.

EBSCO:

Use the *Literary Reference Center* button on right

Gale Virtual Reference Library:

Choose the Literature toggle (+) under the main search box

Scroll down and click on *Novels for Students Volume 1*

Search "Frankenstein" in search box to the left