Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley

Webquest: Dr. Frankenstein—Interview as a Lab Assistant!

⬡ Introduction:

Welcome to Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory! You must be here for the interview to be his new *lab assistant*. The doctor is currently … preoccupied with his latest experiment, but would love to read your resumé to make sure you are the perfect candidate. He is looking for someone brave, clever, and preferably good with a secret.

Victor

Task:

In order to impress this mysterious scientist, you will have to prove that you share his interests. You will need to know information about a variety of scientific, psychological, and literary topics. Ready for the interview?

Process & Resources:

Answer the questions using the provided links to gain a better understanding of the world of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. When you are finished, write a brief cover letter explaining all you've learned and why you deserve to be Dr. Frankenstein's lab assistant.

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

⬡ How do we make a monster?: Galvanism

Use this website to obtain the answers to the questions that follow:
https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/how-twitching-frog-legs-helped-inspire-frankenstein-180957457/

1. What is *galvanism*?
2. What kinds of experiments did scientists try to understand galvanism?
3. How was Mary Shelley inspired to write her story based on the idea of galvanism?

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

⬡ Do you think people are born evil?: Nature vs. Nurture

Use this website to obtain the answers to the questions that follow:
https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/nature-vs-nurture

1. Summarize the widely debated idea of Nature vs. Nurture.
2. What is the modern consensus about how nature and nurture play a role in developing personalities?
3. Is there any scientific evidence to support it?

Here are additional websites that can support both sides:
https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-09-amount-attention-parents-impact-baby.html
https://www.sciencefocus.com/the-human-body/can-people-have-a-genetic-predisposition-towards-being-evil/

⬡ **Prestwick House**

Frankenstein
by Mary Shelley

Webquest: Dr. Frankenstein—Interview as a Lab Assistant!

How do you feel about nature?: Romanticism

Use these websites to obtain the answers to the questions that follow:
https://www.britannica.com/art/Romanticism
https://uh.edu/engines/romanticism/introduction.html

1. What was Romanticism?
2. Is Romanticism different than how we view the word *romantic*?
3. What major authors embraced Romanticism?

What scares you?: Gothic Literature

Use these websites to obtain the answers to the questions that follow:
https://www.invaluable.com/blog/elements-of-gothic-literature/
https://americanliterature.com/gothic-literature-study-guide

1. What are the features of Gothic literature?
2. What kind of "scary" does Gothic literature fall under?
3. Who are some famous authors known to the Gothic genre?

Who is Dr. Frankenstein's favorite author?: Mary Shelley

Use these websites to obtain the answers to the questions that follow:
https://www.bl.uk/people/mary-shelley
https://www.biography.com/writer/mary-shelley
https://www.history.com/news/frankenstein-true-story-mary-shelley

1. Who was Mary Shelley?
2. How did she come up with her idea for *Frankenstein*?
3. She had a famous mother and husband. Who were they, and what did they write?
4. What were some major tragedies that happened in her life?

Conclusion

Now that you've learned a bit about the doctor's eclectic interests, write a brief cover letter of why your knowledge of eighteenth-century science and literature makes you the perfect candidate for this position. Be creative, but be sure to reference the information you've learned in your research. It's important to include something from each interview question topic!

Note to Teacher: The links in this webquest were chosen for the integrity of their content, but content on the web is subject to change beyond our control. Please make sure these sites are still valid and appropriate for your students. In addition, if you find that a website we've linked no longer exists, please contact us so we can replace it with an active website.