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Sample

Prestwick House
Literature
Teaching Unit
Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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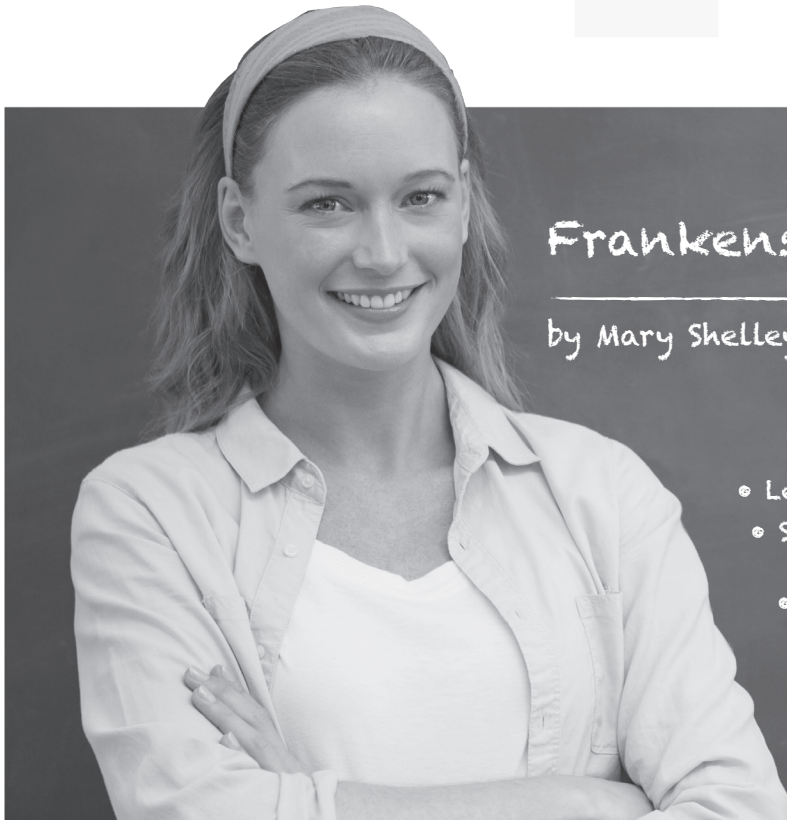
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Frankenstein

Objectives

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

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

Frankenstein

Questions for Essay and Discussion

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

Frankenstein

Prologue

Vocabulary

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

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

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?
