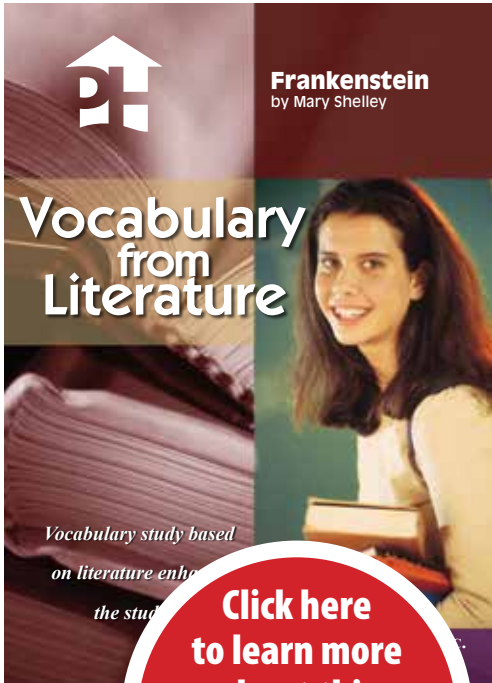




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Vocabulary From Literature for...

Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley

written by Michelle Ryan

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Vocabulary From Literature

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Vocabulary From Literature

Information for Instructors

The activities in this Unit are designed to help students increase their vocabulary by studying the meanings of words selected from Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*. All definitions provided in these activities are based on the contexts in which the vocabulary words appear, which may not always convey the words' conventional usage.

It is the goal of this Unit to familiarize students with vocabulary words that they will re-encounter in life and in other readings. The words are carefully selected to meet this goal. Many unfamiliar words not covered by the Unit are defined in a Glossary following the Activities section; the Glossary may also contain slang expressions and proper nouns.

Rather than matching *Frankenstein* chapter-for-chapter, we have divided the book into segments depending on the number of vocabulary words from each chapter. While all of the activities may be completed by students individually, we have had the best results when students worked on them in pairs or small groups. The following activities are provided for each segment.

While the words in this reproducible do represent those necessary for a better understanding of the text, our primary concern is that we select words not only pertinent to the literature, but also useful in other aspects of the students' lives. In addition, activities may vary slightly among the various chapters.

All page references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press edition of *Frankenstein*, published 2005.

Activity I

Objective: Using a dictionary to find definitions and interpret them

Activity II

Objective: Deciphering the meaning of vocabulary words using context clues
Replacing the vocabulary word with appropriate definition or synonym(s)

Activity III

Objective: Writing definitions, synonyms, and/or sentences based on context clues

Vocabulary From Literature

Activity I
Matching Definitions
Preface through Chapter II

Directions: Match each of the words below with its definition based on the context in which the word appears in the book. Use the page numbers in parentheses to locate the word. Then, look up the word in the dictionary and change any answers that are not correct.

ameliorate (24)
cursory (31)
emaciated (20)

averred (32)
disconsolate (27)
enervating (8)

caprice (30)
eccentricities (10)

celestial (30)
effectual (25)

1. _____ hasty, quick; not detailed
2. _____ oddities, quirks
3. _____ a whim
4. _____ heavenly, divine
5. _____ weakening
6. _____ to improve
7. _____ extremely thin
8. _____ declared, announced
9. _____ distressed
10. _____ sufficient, adequate

impertinent (21)
predilection (31)
tertiary (31)

inexhaustible (27)
sate (10)
vehement (30)

inexorable (14)
spectres (7)

irradiated (24)
suppliant (14)

11. _____ unable to be moved
12. _____ ghosts, phantoms
13. _____ a beggar
14. _____ rude
15. _____ unlimited, tireless
16. _____ to quench, satisfy
17. _____ illuminated
18. _____ a preference
19. _____ of lesser importance; thirdly
20. _____ intense, strong

Frankenstein

Activity II
Writing Synonyms
from Context Clues
Preface through Chapter II

Directions: Replace each highlighted word in the following passages with the synonym that best fits the context of the sentence.

1. I have thus **endeavoured** to preserve the truth of the elementary principles of human nature, while I have not **scrupled** to **innovate** upon their combinations. *The Iliad*, the tragic poetry of Greece—Shakespeare, in the *Tempest* and *Midsummer Night's Dream*—and most especially, Milton, in *Paradise Lost*, conform to this rule; and the most humble novelist, who seeks to confer or receive amusement from his labours, may, without **presumption**, apply to prose fiction a licence, or rather a rule, from the adoption of which many exquisite combinations of human feeling have resulted in the highest **specimens** of poetry. (Pg. 7)

Synonym for **endeavoured**:

Synonym for **scrupled**:

Synonym for **innovate**:

Synonym for **presumption**:

Synonym for **specimens**:
