

eXplore

FRANKENSTEIN

C. White Adapting the
original by Mary Shelley

KNOWLEDGE
BOOKS

32

Reading Recovery Level: 17

Word Count: 4077

Content: Fiction and Sci-Fi

ACARA F-10 References:

Learning Areas:

English and Literacy

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SENSITIVITY NOTICE:

This book is not suitable for a young reader. Restriction should be considered based on age. An adolescent reader of this book may find the topic violent. Prior notice before reading should be considered.

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Teacher Notes:

A timeless classic which is an early example of science fiction. Written in the true Gothic style it appeals to a range of readers. This is an abridged story by C. White which provides an introduction for young readers to the story. It will lead to many discussion points and further motivate students to read the original story.

Discussion points for consideration:

1. At the time of the writing of Frankenstein, how did they think they could make life again?
2. What was Vincent's last name? What was the monster called?
3. This is an early Sci-Fi story. Why do you know this story is fiction and not non-fiction?
4. What is the difference between living and non-living?
5. Name some of the locations of this story.

Difficult words to be introduced and practised before reading this book:

Frankenstein, alchemy, disappeared, sailing, daughter, understand, lightning, excited, university, something, excitement, obsessed, unhealthy, together, disgusted, terrible, drenched, carriage, Geneva, strangled, creature, murderer, innocent, journey, confused, beautiful, screamed, remembered, monster, creator, dangerous.



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1. Trapped on the Ice

Captain Robert Walton and his men had been sailing north. They were sailing for the North Pole. They became trapped in the ice. There was ice all around them.

They saw a huge man. He was being pulled across the ice on a dog sled. The man moved quickly and soon disappeared.

The next morning the ship was no longer trapped. Another man was trapped on a large piece of ice. He also had a dog sled.

The man only came onto the ship because they were sailing north. Walton thought he should have been glad to see any ship! Walton had never seen a man in such bad shape.

This man, Victor Frankenstein, had a tale to warn Walton.



2. About Victor Frankenstein

Victor was born to a rich family. He was the first-born child. His mother wanted a daughter. She adopted Elizabeth Lavenza. Elizabeth was an orphan who lived with a poor family. Victor took to Elizabeth right away. He loved her.

From a young age, Victor wanted to understand the world. He took great interest in nature. He did not have many friends but was very close to Henry Clerval.

His parents had two more sons. They were Ernest and William. They took in another girl, Justine Moritz. She became William's nanny.

When he was young, Victor studied alchemy. Alchemy was meant to be a way to change things. Alchemy was when someone tried to turn lead into gold. Victor did not know that alchemy had already been shown to be wrong.



At fifteen years of age, Victor saw a big storm. Lightning destroyed a huge oak tree. The tree was turned to ribbons.

Electricity was a new discovery. Victor learned about electricity. It made him realise he had wasted his time. He stopped studying alchemy. He began to study maths and science.

Two years later, Victor was about to start university. He would go to Geneva. Before he left, Elizabeth became sick with scarlet fever. Victor's family feared she might die. His mother nursed Elizabeth back to health. But she also got sick with fever.

Victor's mother told him and Elizabeth she hoped they would marry one day. Victor's mother died and the family was very sad. Victor was sad to leave his family and friends behind. He was excited too. He was excited to continue his studies. He left for university.

Victor was glad to be studying real science. Still, he felt like something was missing. Alchemists had very big aims. The aims of modern science seemed very small.

Victor heard one of his teachers speak. He realised then how exciting science could be. It sparked a new excitement in him! He wanted to unlock great mysteries!

Victor studied hard for the next two years.

Victor became obsessed with life and living things. He studied the bodies of people and animals.

To study life he also had to study death. He spent nights looking at dead bodies.

He saw that when a dead body rots, it is eaten by worms. In this way, death leads to life.

Victor was obsessed with his work. He made a great discovery. He made dead matter come back to life!

3. Victor Builds a Whole Person

Victor wanted to make a whole person. He knew this would be hard. This man would be very large. Victor wanted to create a whole new species of man.

Victor was obsessed with his work. He was working indoors so much that he became pale. He became skinny and unhealthy.

He collected bones and body parts. He worked alone in the top of the house. At times he hated his work. Still, he could not stop. He was obsessed.

Winter, spring and summer all passed. Victor became more and more sick. Victor said he would take the time to get better when his work was done.

Finally, Victor finished his work. He had pieced together a body. He had all the tools he needed to create the spark of life.



Victor brought the creature to life! It opened one eye. It breathed hard. Its body shook.

The creature disgusted Victor whom he had created. He had wanted it to be beautiful. He gave it long black hair and white teeth. But its skin was yellow and gross. Its eyes were white and watery. Its lips were black.

Victor was so disgusted he ran from his workshop! Victor went to his bedroom, but he could not sleep. He walked back and forth. When he did sleep, he had terrible dreams. In his dreams, he saw Elizabeth. He kissed her on the lips and saw that she was dead.

He awoke in fear. He was very sick.