

FRANKENSTEIN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Should humans tamper with nature? At what point should we *stop* tampering with nature? Explain.
2. Is the Creature a villain or a victim? Explain.
3. Who is *most* responsible for the murders the Creature commits? Explain.
4. In the Nature vs. Nurture debate, the “Nature” side argues that our personalities are determined by genetics while the “Nurture” side argues that environmental factors shape our personalities. The life of the Creature is evidence for which argument? Explain.
5. Does Victor Frankenstein deserve his fate? Explain.
6. Should Victor Frankenstein have honored the Creature’s request and completed the female creature? Explain.
7. How is the Creature like Satan from *Paradise Lost* who says, “Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven”?
8. Why does the Creature feel so much despair and remorse after Victor dies?
9. Did Victor Frankenstein’s ambition destroy him? Can this happen in real life? Explain.
10. Why do you think Mary Shelley chose the Arctic as the setting for the final showdown between Victor and the Creature?
11. The theories of Albert Einstein eventually led to the development of nuclear weapons. When pondering this, Einstein said, “The release of atomic power has changed everything except our way of thinking...the solution to this problem lies in the heart of mankind. If only I had known, I should have become a watchmaker.” How is his situation similar to that of Victor Frankenstein?
12. Does the Creature have a conscience—a sense of right and wrong? Explain.
13. *Frankenstein* is told from multiple points-of-view: Robert Walton, Victor Frankenstein, and the Creature himself. What does this add to the story?
14. Research the real-life tragedies of Mary Shelley, which caused some critics to call her “cursed” for writing such an abominable book. What do you think of the parallels between the darkness of *Frankenstein* and the darkness of her own life?
15. Why does Shelley choose to leave the Creature nameless?