



FRANKENSTEIN

INTRODUCTION

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797-1851) published *Frankenstein; or, the modern Prometheus* in 1818, and it has become the most well known Gothic story of all time. And it is also one of the first science fiction stories. There are three important protagonists in this book: Robert Walton, the sea captain who rescues Frankenstein in the Arctic; Victor Frankenstein, the brilliant scientist; and the monster or creature. All three of them tell their story in the novel.

Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant and ambitious scientist, creates a monster and gives it life. But he is horrified by his own creation and he rejects it brutally. The creature that Frankenstein created is initially good, but as he is rejected by everyone because of his horrible appearance, he becomes evil and wants revenge. One day the creature meets his creator, Frankenstein, and makes a request that will influence the lives of both of them. However, Frankenstein intends to pursue the monster all over the world, and towards the end of his travels he is rescued by Captain Walton.

PREDICTION

1. What do you think?

1. Will Victor Frankenstein try to kill or destroy his own creature?
 - a. Yes, he will.
 - b. No, he won't.
 - c. He will try to change his appearance.
2. What will the creature's request be?
 - a. He wants to have a better appearance.
 - b. He wants Frankenstein to create a companion for him since he is very lonely.
 - c. He wants to live with Frankenstein's family.
3. Will Victor Frankenstein agree to the creature's request?
 - a. Yes, he will.
 - b. No, he won't.
 - c. He will initially, but then he regrets his decision.

Mark your answers and when you finish reading the story, check them to see if you predicted correctly.





READING ACTIVITY

Part 1

The story is made up of three narratives and three protagonists: Walton, Frankenstein and the monster or creature.

2. Read and complete the extract from *Frankenstein*, Part One, Walton's Narrative. Then choose the correct word from the words below – A, B or C. The first is done for you.

I must **0** B you about the **1** thing that has happened. Last Monday we were **2** by ice. The ship could not move. We were **3** far from land. We waited anxiously, looking out at the ice, which **4** to the horizon. Suddenly we saw a sledge pulled by dogs going north. A gigantic man drove the sledge.

We **5** until he disappeared from sight.

Later the ice broke and we were able to move again. The next morning we found another sledge on a **6** sheet of ice in the sea. The man in this sledge was weak, tired and half-frozen. We invited him onto the ship but he said, 'Tell me first where you are going.' When I told him we were going north, he climbed onto the ship. We gave him food and warm clothes. For two days he was very ill, and I **7** he had gone mad. When he had recovered a little, I asked him what he was doing alone on the ice.

'I am following someone,' he said.

'Someone who is also travelling alone on a sledge?' I asked.

'Yes.'

'Then I think we have seen him.'

- | A | B | C |
|-------------|----------|------------|
| 0. say | tell | speak |
| 1. strange | mystery | confusing |
| 2. around | inside | surrounded |
| 3. very | much | many |
| 4. moved | slipped | stretched |
| 5. saw | watched | noticed |
| 6. floating | swimming | sinking |
| 7. afraid | scared | feared |



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY

3/6



QUICK QUIZ! (GRAMMAR QUIZ)

3. Circle the correct word.

1. We looked *for/looked at* him but we couldn't find him.
2. I opened the window and *looked to/looked at* the ship.
3. *Who/whom* did he see on the sledge?
4. The man climbed *into/onto* the ship.
5. They walked *into/onto* the beautiful garden.



level
B2.2

READING ACTIVITY 4/6



Part 2

Read the extract from *Frankenstein, Part Two, Frankenstein's Narrative*, and complete the exercise below.

I am not mad. I swear it is true. After days and nights of work, I discovered how life was created. I myself was able to create life.

I can see by your eager expression, my friend, that you want me to tell you the secret. I will not tell you, and soon you will understand why not. Listen to my story, and learn from my example. Knowledge is dangerous. An ambitious man is not a happy man.

My first task was to create a body. I worked day and night. I grew thin and pale, but I continued to work. The moon watched me through the window as I uncovered the secrets of Nature. what horrible work it was! I explored dead bodies and tortured living animals, but my work did not seem horrible to me then. I thought that I had conquered death. I would be the creator of a new race of happy and excellent creatures!

All summer I worked on my filthy creation in a lonely attic room. I did not see the sunshine, the flowers, or the green leaves. I did not write to my family or think about them. I thought only of my work.

Any ambition that makes you forget the people you love and the simple pleasures of ordinary life is bad. The leaves fell from the trees, and still I worked. I became anxious and nervous. I avoided other people. I hid myself like a criminal. my creation was nearly done. Soon it would be finished, and then, I promised myself, I would rest and recover my health.





4. Choose the correct answer – a, b or c.

1. What did the narrator, Victor Frankenstein, discover?
 - a. He discovered that he was mad.
 - b. He discovered that he was in love.
 - c. He discovered how to create life.
2. What was Frankenstein's first task?
 - a. He had to write a letter.
 - b. He had to create a body.
 - c. He had to tell his friend a secret.
3. Why did Frankenstein grow thin and pale?
 - a. He grew thin and pale because he worked all the time—day and night.
 - b. He grew thin and pale because he didn't have enough food to eat.
 - c. He grew thin and pale because he was going mad.
4. What did Frankenstein want to do?
 - a. He wanted to create flowers and green leaves.
 - b. He wanted to create a new race of happy creatures.
 - c. He wanted to torture animals.
5. Where did Frankenstein work?
 - a. He worked in a laboratory.
 - b. He worked in a dark cellar.
 - c. He worked in a lonely attic.

QUICK QUIZ! (GRAMMAR QUIZ)

5. Circle the correct word.

1. He's lazy and he doesn't have *some/any* ambition.
2. *Some/Any* kinds of knowledge are dangerous.
3. Do you have *any/some* work to do?
4. They met *any/some* happy people at the party.
5. In winter the trees don't have *any/some* leaves.

