

YEAR 7 - FRANKENSTEIN KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

CONTEXT

Enlightenment (16th – 18th Centuries)	The era just before Frankenstein was written. A period of history which involved the development of new ideas and scientific discovery. During this time people began questioning God. It also led to the Industrial Revolution.
Romanticism (18th 19th centuries)	The text is a Romantic text – it features discussions over the beauty of nature. The Romantics believed in the power of God and the beauty of nature.
Prometheus	The novel's subtitle is 'The Modern Prometheus'. Prometheus is a figure in Greek culture/religion, who made humans out of clay. He also stole fire from the Gods, and to punish him, they chained him to a rock and called an eagle to peck out his liver each day.
Galvanism	Scientist Luigi Galvani applied electrodes to dead body parts and caused them to be 'reanimated' – the muscles moved as if the creatures were alive. This was exciting and terrifying for Victorians.
Lord Byron	Influential poet/author and friend of Mary Shelley and her husband.
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	Philosopher from Switzerland – known to Percy Shelley. His theory (which was radical at the time!) was that people begin life as innocents and may become corrupted/evil over time due to culture and society.

CHARACTERS

Captain Walton	An Arctic explorer
Victor Frankenstein	A scientist. In his early twenties.
Clerval	Frankenstein's friend. A philosopher.
Elizabeth	Frankenstein's 'cousin'.
The Monster	Frankenstein's creation.
Felix and Agathe	The cottagers that the monster spies on. They are political refugees.
William	Frankenstein's younger brother.

KEY INFO

1818	The year the novel was first published
Mary Shelley	The author of the novel
Philip Pullman	The author of the play-text version
Gothic Fiction	The novel is part of this genre of writing
Science Fiction	The novel is considered to be one of the first in this genre

THEMES

Religion	Frankenstein goes against God by creating the monster – the novel warns against 'playing God'.
Prejudice	The monster suffers from prejudice from Frankenstein and all others he meets. He is judged to be evil before people have even spoken to him.
Innocence	The monster is initially innocent until he learns destruction through humans.
Ambition	Frankenstein's ambition to create the monster – is ambition always good?
Loneliness	Many of the characters are lonely some by choice and some not.
Revenge	Both Frankenstein and the monster feel wronged and seek revenge even at the cost of their own safety, health and happiness.

KEY QUOTES

Captain Walton	'...a creature like a man, but huge and hideous beyond belief.'	Pg.10
Frankenstein	'Yes, if we're lucky tonight and it storms...well, my dear fellow, we're in the threshold of a new age.'	Pg.14
Frankenstein	'And I thought: the power that can do that is the power of life and death. I'll harness it. I'll study it and master it and make it work for mankind.'	Pg.16
Frankenstein	'There's no cause for shock or disgust in nature.'	Pg.17
Frankenstein	'You've no idea how lonely it's been...I've been working at this for six years now.'	Pg.19
Elizabeth	'I'm worried. I have such dreams...I see Victor in them, and there's something horrible pursuing him – or is he pursuing it?'	Pg.22
Frankenstein	'Clerval, I beg you – leave me alone – you don't know how dangerous this could be.'	Pg.25
Clerval	'This is pure evil, Frankenstein.'	Pg.26
Frankenstein	'But you're not what I thought you'd be...I thought I was making an angel...I thought I was making something better than human!'	Pg. 26
Monster	'I will not hurt anyone. I am their friend. Friend of everyone.'	Pg.34
Monster	'Men see me, they hurt me...But I am <i>good</i> . I want to love them, not hurt, not kill.'	Pg.35
Monster	'Evil? Evil – you <i>want</i> evil? – then I shall be evil! I shall be terror and hatred and revenge – <i>revenge!</i> '	Pg.36
Agathe	'We should have helped him, Felix. He was an outcast just like us.'	Pg.37
Monster	'I am exactly what you made me, Frankenstein.'	Pg.39
Frankenstein	'Monster! I didn't create you to do evil – why have you betrayed me?'	Pg.41
Monster	'...you turned away in horror and left me to find my own way through the world...'	Pg.41
Monster	'All alone in the icy mountains, weeping, crying with rage and loneliness.'	Pg.42
Monster	'Your God has nothing to do with me. You are my God. You made me, and you owe me happiness.'	Pg.42
Monster	'You, the creator of my misery. You the source of all my unhappiness.'	Pg.43
Monster	'How can I love, when I am met with nothing but hatred and disgust?'	Pg.44
Clerval	'He's a genius. He's the greatest man of science the world has ever seen...'	Pg.47
Monster	'It's because he, cursed though he is, made me better than your God made you.'	Pg.50
Monster	'You'll follow me, Frankenstein. Wherever I go you'll come stumbling after me, intent on putting me to death – but you won't catch me!'	Pg.54