

FRANKENSTEIN

1st and 2nd of ESO
(Teacher's Guide)





NOTE TO TEACHERS

On our website www.transeduca.com you will find the entire script of the play.

Download it!

You can work on this play with your students before going to the theatre. Enjoy!

BEFORE GOING TO THE THEATRE

1. The Story

Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist, becomes obsessed with creating life and makes a creature from body parts, which he animates. Horrified by his own creation, Victor abandons the Creature, who, despite seeking acceptance, faces rejection and isolation due to his monstrous appearance.

Victor's fiancée, Elizabeth, who knows nothing about the monster being alive, warns him about playing God. Victor convinces her that she has nothing to worry about and they make plans for their future together. Victor's younger brother, William dies while playing in the park.

Saddened by his brother's death, Victor takes pity on the monster and creates a female companion for him. He becomes worried about them reproducing and populating the world so he destroys her. The monster sees this and takes revenge, killing Elizabeth. Victor flees knowing that the monster pursues to kill him too. He freezes to death in the Arctic Circle before the monster gets to him.



Answer the following questions related to the text:

- a) What is Victor Frankenstein's profession?
He is a young scientist obsessed with creating life.
- b) Who is Elizabeth?
She is Victor's fiancée.
- c) Does Elizabeth know that the monster is alive?
No she doesn't. Victor hides this from her and convinces her that she has nothing to worry about.
- d) What happens to Victor's brother?
He dies mysteriously while playing in the park.
- e) What is the second creation that Victor makes?
A female companion for the monster as he feels sorry for him.
- f) Why does Victor become worried about the second creation?
He worries that they will reproduce and populate the world.
- g) What does Victor do to the female companion?
He destroys her and the monster sees him do so.



2. Match the following vocabulary with the correct definitions.

1. engaged	a. to <u>escape</u> by <u>running away</u> , <u>especially</u> because of <u>danger</u> or <u>fear</u>
2. alive	b. the woman who someone is <u>engaged</u> to be <u>married</u> to
3. to flee	c. having <u>formally agreed</u> to <u>marry</u>
4. to abandon	d. to <u>follow</u> someone or something, usually to <u>try</u> to <u>catch</u> him, her, or it
5. fiancée	e. <u>harm</u> done to someone as a <u>punishment</u> for <u>harm</u> that they have done to someone <u>else</u>
6. to pursue	f. a <u>person</u> you <u>spend</u> a lot of <u>time</u> with often because you are <u>friends</u> or because you are <u>travelling</u> together
7. revenge	g. to <u>leave</u> a <u>place</u> , thing, or <u>person</u> , usually for <u>ever</u>
8. companion	h. living, not dead

1.c/2.h/3.a/4.g/5.b/6.d/7.e/8.f

3. Complete the sentences using the correct words from the previous activity. You may need to put some of the verbs into the past participle (3rd column - ed)
- a) This dog has been her _____ for the last ten years.
This dog has been her **companion** for the last ten years.
- b) The criminal is being _____ by police.
The criminal is being **pursued** by police.
- c) She took _____ for all the bad things he had done to her.
She took **revenge** for all the bad things he had done to her.
- d) We were sinking fast, and the captain gave the order to _____ ship.
We were sinking fast, and the captain gave the order to **abandon** ship.
- e) He managed to stay _____ for a week without any food.
He managed to stay **alive** for a week without any food.
- f) Debbie and Chris have just got _____. They will get married next summer.
Debbie and Chris have just got **engaged**. They will get married next summer.



4. The characters

- a) **Mary Shelley** is the author of the story. She wrote Frankenstein when challenged to write horror stories by fellow author Lord Byron. She was a curious and intelligent young woman influenced by the tragic events of her life.
- b) **Victor Frankenstein** comes from a wealthy family in Geneva, Switzerland. He is interested in science and becomes obsessed with trying to cure death. Victor is ambitious and selfish. He isolates himself from his friends and family and refuses to take responsibility for what he has done.
- c) **The Monster** is made by Victor from dead body parts. As soon as he comes to life, Victor abandons him. Even though the Monster is intelligent and sensitive, people are disgusted and terrified by him. He is treated badly so has to learn to survive on his own, becoming angry and jealous.
- d) **Elizabeth** is Victor's fiancée. She is unaware of the Monster that Victor has created. She is caring and innocent.
- e) **The female monster** is made by Victor as a companion for the Monster. When she is made Victor is disgusted and worried that they will start to reproduce and dominate the world so he destroys her.
- a) Match the statement to the correct character:
VICTOR/THE MONSTER/ELIZABETH/SHELLEY/FEMALE MONSTER
- This character is hated and feared by everyone who sees them. **THE MONSTER**
 - This character faced lots of tragic events in their life. **SHELLEY**
 - This character is ambitious and doesn't take responsibility for their actions. **VICTOR**
 - This character is caring and innocent. **ELIZABETH**
 - This character is intelligent and sensitive. **THE MONSTER**
 - This character is interested in science. **VICTOR**



5. THE AUTHOR: Mary Shelley



Mary Shelley started writing *Frankenstein* in 1816 when her friends held a competition to write a scary story. Her friends included the famous poets Percy Shelley and Lord Byron.

Shelley's story was inspired by some gruesome scientific experiments that were happening during her lifetime. Some scientists were experimenting with using electricity to reanimate dead animals, such as frogs. In 1803, they even tried to reanimate a human body.

These experiments were not successful, but Shelley used them as inspiration for Victor's creation. She explored society's fears about what might happen if these experiments succeeded.

Young women were not expected to have careers at this time so she published the book anonymously, hoping that people would take it more seriously. In 1831, when it had become a success, it was republished under her real name.

a) When and where was she born?

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b) Besides this play, can you name three other works by the author?

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c) Do you know other English authors? Name their most popular works.

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7. Put the following words in order to create coherent sentences. You have to add the necessary articles and prepositions:

a) Victor / Elizabeth / worry / has / reassures / to / nothing / she / about.

.....

b) destroys / female / He / companion. / the

.....

c) Victor / for / companion / female / creates / the / a / monster.

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d) assembles / from / Victor / creature / parts. / body

.....

e) The / kills / Elizabeth. / monster

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f) warns / risk / of / him / the / God. / of / Elizabeth / playing

.....

g) Victor / of / dies / the / Arctic Circle. / cold / in

.....

h) playing / whilst / William / dies / in / the / park.

.....

i) they / reproduce / He / worries / and / will / populate / world. / the

.....



8. Speaking

Working in pairs, take it in turns to describe the scenes taken from the Frankenstein movie. You can describe the characters, what they are wearing, how they might be feeling etc. Then, change roles.



9. Listening

Listen to **TRACKS 1** and answer the following questions:

TRACK 1:

• **Where is Victor?**

He is in his laboratory.

• **What are his intentions?**

He intends to create life

• **What do we learn about the relationship between Victor and Elizabeth?**

They are in love. They are engaged and are making plans for the future together.



• **What does Elizabeth warn Victor about?**

She warns him about "playing God" or wanting to fly too close to the sun.

• **Elizabeth compares Victor to a Greek God. What is the name of this God? What is he the god of?**

Myth of Prometheus. He wanted to steal fire from the Gods. God of fire.

• **Who has died suddenly?**

Victor's brother, William.

AFTER GOING TO THE THEATRE

10. Speaking

Work in pairs. The original story of "Frankenstein" takes place in the early 19th century in various locations across Europe but imagine if it were set in a completely different time period or setting. Describe the plot of this new version of "Frankenstein". How do the time period and setting change the characters, their motivations, and the story's themes?

Example: **Frankenstein in a Futuristic World:** Imagine the story takes place in a high-tech future where Victor Frankenstein is a brilliant scientist who uses advanced AI and biotechnology to create the monster. How would the creature be different? What new ethical dilemmas would arise?

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11. True or False

Look at these sentences about the story and say if they are true or false. You should CORRECT the false sentences.

T

F



Mary Shelley starts writing the story in Switzerland.



Victor kills William.



Victor uses the same method to create a female companion for the Monster.



When Victor sees how the Monster looks at his new bride, he is happy for them.



Victor is killed by the monster in the Arctic Circle.



The monster commits suicide at the end of the story.





12. Who said that?

Match the phrase to the character who says it: **VICTOR, MARY SHELLEY, ELIZABETH, THE MONSTER.**

PHRASE	WHO SAYS IT?
I was at a meeting of young writers willing to free their imaginations to engage with their creations.	MARY SHELLEY
I've been locked up here with you for a long time. You gave me life, but you don't let me live.	THE MONSTER
I want you to forgive me for this time when I haven't behaved properly. I've made mistakes and I want to make it up to you.	VICTOR
You have science and your experiments, and I have you. Just as you won't give up on them, I won't give up on you.	ELIZABETH
You're right. Some people get lost. But we are capable of the most beautiful things to find our way and help each other, don't you think?	ELIZABETH
Who are we? That's a good question, isn't it?	THE MONSTER
For only the Gods know if our soul is saved when our life ends.	MARY SHELLEY
This creation was a mistake. It was a mistake to teach you about life.	MARY SHELLEY



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