

# FRANKENSTEIN

Upper Secondary  
School  
(Teacher's Guide)





## NOTE TO TEACHERS

On our website [www.transeduca.com](http://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 assembles 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 reassures her that she has nothing to worry about and they make plans for their future together. Victor's younger brother, William dies mysteriously 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.**
- h) Choose the theme you think is going to be the most important within this show and explain why you think so? (secrecy, family, ambition, power, love, courage, loneliness)  
**Student's own opinion. All of these themes are touched on in the storyline so any justification would be correct.**
- i) Who do you think the real monster is in this story? Victor or the monster himself? Explain your answer.  
**Student's own opinion. There is no right or wrong answer, their opinion depends on how they interpret the story.**



## 2. Match the following vocabulary with the correct definitions.

1.	engaged
2.	alive
3.	to flee
4.	to abandon
5.	fiancée
6.	to pursue
7.	revenge
8.	companion

a.	to <u>escape</u> by <u>running away</u> , <u>especially</u> because of <u>danger</u> or <u>fear</u>
b.	the woman who someone is <u>engaged</u> to be <u>married</u> to
c.	having <u>formally agreed</u> to <u>marry</u>
d.	to <u>follow</u> someone or something, usually to <u>try</u> to <u>catch</u> him, her, or it
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>
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
g.	to <u>leave</u> a <u>place</u> , thing, or <u>person</u> , usually for <u>ever</u>
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. Verbs and prepositions

When a verb is part of a longer sentence, it is often followed by a specific preposition. There are no grammatical rules to help you know which preposition is used with which verb, so it's a good idea to try to learn them together.

All of these verbs below are taken from the text and are followed by a preposition. Put the verbs in the correct column with the preposition they take.

take revenge	horrify	die	sadden
know	warn	take pity	

OF	ABOUT	ON	FOR	BY
warn die	worry know warn <i>(can also go here)</i>	take pity take revenge <i>(can also go here)</i>	take revenge	sadden horrify

5. Complete the sentences with the correct verbs and prepositions. You may need to put the verbs into the correct past tense.

Example

- I was \_\_\_\_\_ the bad news I got yesterday about my test results.

I was **saddened** by the bad news I got yesterday about my test results.

- The government **warned of** the damage that traffic is causing to global warming.
- Most people these days usually die of old age.
- We have to **take revenge** for this insult.
- Do you **know about** the new horror novel that is being released next week?
- She **warned** me **about** the difficulties of the job.



### 6. 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**



## 7. 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?**

.....

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

.....



## 8. Time to think

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* asks the questions science fiction tends most often to ask: What does it mean to be human? Where do you draw the line between what is human and what is not?

What do you think about these questions? Write a short paragraph explaining your ideas.

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One of the most curious things about *Frankenstein*, the novel and the movies made from it, is the tendency people have to call the Monster himself *Frankenstein*. Is this mere careless usage, or does it reflect something telling about the story?

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## 9. Quotes.

Below are some famous quotes from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. Read the following ones and answer the questions.

*"Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful."*

*"Life, although it may only be an accumulation of anguish, is dear to me, and I will defend it."*

*"Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change."*

*"If I cannot inspire love, I will cause fear!"*

- What do they mean to you?

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- Do you agree with these messages?

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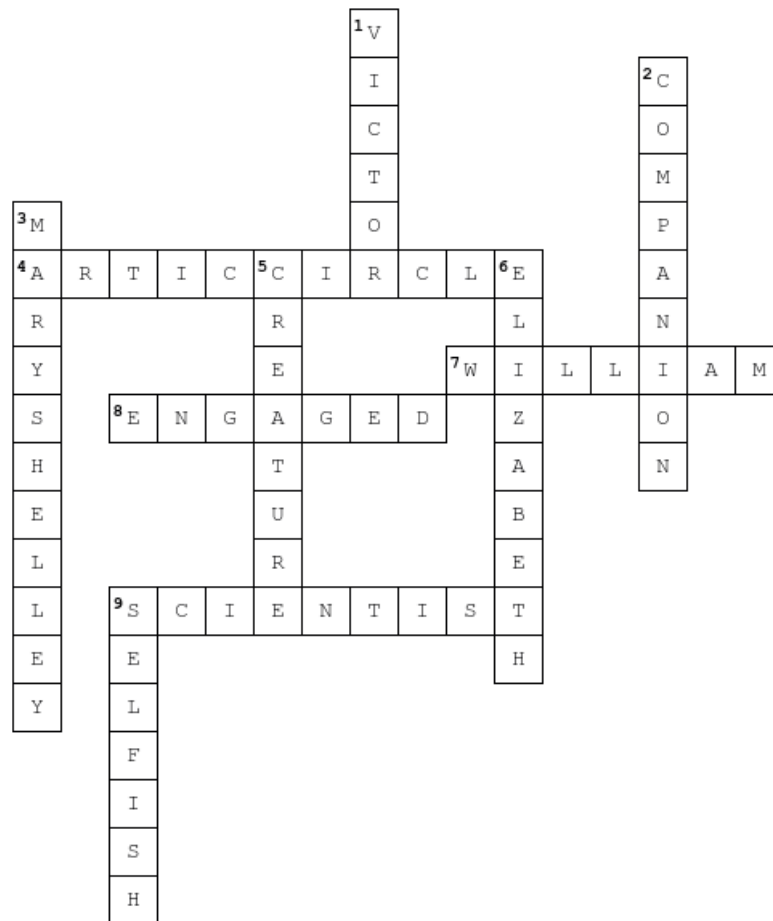
- Why? Why not? Write and discuss them in class.

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### 10. Crossword - Complete the crossword using the clues below.



#### Across

- 4 Victor goes here to flee the monster
- 7 Victor's brother
- 8 Victor is \_\_\_\_\_ to Elizabeth
- 9 an expert who studies or works in one of the sciences

#### Down

- 1 creates a monster
- 2 Victor creates this when he feels sorry for the monster
- 3 Author of Frankenstein
- 5 any large or small living thing that can move independently
- 6 Victor's fiancée
- 9 Victor's personality is described as this



**11. 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.

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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

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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

.....



## 12. Speaking

With a partner compare TWO of the two scenes taken from the Frankenstein movie and answer these short questions.

- How do you think the characters are feeling in both situations?
- How are the situations different from each other?





## 13. 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

#### 14. 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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#### 15. THEMES

Themes are the main ideas that appear repeatedly in a play or novel. Some of the important themes in Frankenstein are:

- Ambition
- Monsters
- Revenge

##### a) Ambition

Victor is an ambitious character, and is lonely as a result of his ambitions. He pushes boundaries to discover new things and is punished for this. For example:

Victor is tormented by the Monster who kills his brother and wife.



Victor never takes responsibility for his actions or listens to any warnings, and as a result he loses everyone he cares about before dying himself.

### b) Monsters

Many readers assume that the 'monster' in Frankenstein is Victor's creation. But, when the Monster tells his story to Victor and explains how lonely he feels, it's clear that Shelley wanted the reader to feel sympathy for him.

Shelley might be suggesting that other things are monstrous, for example:

- Society, which she thought was unfair because of the way it treated the Monster.
- Victor, because of how he abandons the Monster and refuses to make him a companion when he tells him he is lonely.

There are lots of similarities between Victor and the Monster. For example, they both want revenge.

Shelley's message might be that no-one is entirely a 'monster' and that monsters are not necessarily the ones who look monstrous.

### c) Revenge

Both Victor and the Monster take revenge on each other. For example:

- When the Monster realises he has been abandoned, he takes revenge on Victor by killing William.
- When Victor destroys the female companion, the Monster takes revenge by killing Elizabeth.
- Victor then chases the Monster to the Arctic to get revenge for the death of Elizabeth.

For both characters, revenge becomes an obsession which ultimately leads to their deaths. It becomes clear that seeking revenge is a negative and unproductive act.

### • Thematic Collage

#### Instructions:

- Create a collage that represents one of the major themes of the play, such as creation, isolation, or revenge.
- Use images, quotes from the play, and other visual elements to convey the theme.
- Present and explain the collage to the class, discussing how the chosen elements relate to the theme.



**Example Themes:** "Isolation and Loneliness: How does the play depict characters who feel isolated from society?"

- **Portrayal of Women**

Female characters often encounter issues and difficulties different to their male equivalents. Examine how Shelley uses the female characters in Frankenstein.

a) How do the female characters reflect Shelley's own biographical situation?

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b) Why does Shelley depict these women as essentially powerless characters?

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c) Why does the monster want a wife? Is this similar to the role the other women play in the lives of their mates?

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## 16. 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.





## 17. Who said that?

Match the phrase to the character who says it: **MARY SHELLEY, 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.	<b>MARY SHELLEY</b>
I've been locked up here with you for a long time. You gave me life, but you don't let me live.	<b>THE MONSTER</b>
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.	<b>VICTOR</b>
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.	<b>ELIZABETH</b>
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?	<b>ELIZABETH</b>
Who are we? That's a good question, isn't it?	<b>THE MONSTER</b>
For only the Gods know if our soul is saved when our life ends.	<b>MARY SHELLEY</b>
This creation was a mistake. It was a mistake to teach you about life.	<b>MARY SHELLEY</b>





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