

Study Questions: *Frankenstein*

Letters

- What are Walton's motives in traveling to the North?
- What are Frankenstein's motives in telling Walton his story?
- What does Frankenstein say that he and Walton have in common?
- How do the opening letters affect our expectations concerning the story itself? (Letters)

Chapters 1-4

- What does Frankenstein say were his earliest interests and goals?
- How and why does he contrast his interests with those of his friend Henry Clerval? (Ch. 2)
- What are Frankenstein's motives in pursuing his scientific studies and discoveries? (Ch. 2-4)

Chapter 5 -- the creation scene

- Quote lines from the chapter that you enjoyed a comment on them.
- Describe your reactions to a character, action, or idea presented in the chapter.

Chapters 6-7

- How does Frankenstein know that the Creature killed William? (Ch. 7)
- Ask Victor Frankenstein a few questions that you have about his actions, ideas, character.

Chapters 8 -10

- Describe the setting in which Frankenstein encounters the Creature in France.
- What is Frankenstein's reaction to the setting before he meets the Creature? (Ch. 9-10)
- Characterize the tone and style of the Creature's first words to Frankenstein, contrasting them with Frankenstein's speech to the Creature. Which of the two speeches sounds more moderate, learned, and reasonable? (Ch. 10)

Chapters 11-16 -- the Creature's story

- What is the demand the Creature speaks of toward the end of Ch. 10, and why does he wait so long before specifying it (end of Ch. 16)?
- In Chapter 13, what view of human beings does the Creature infer from hearing *Ruins of Empires* read aloud? What definition of knowledge does he arrive at that makes him wish he had never "known [or] felt beyond the sensations of hunger, thirst, and heat" (end of Ch. 13)? Who else in the novel voices this same wish and where does it occur in the book?

Chapters 17-19

- Analyze the monster's argument that "the love of another will destroy the cause of my crimes." (Ch. 17)
- What is his evidence and how does this story support his conclusion?

Chapters 20-21

- Examine Frankenstein's considerations and reasons for choosing not to create a mate for the Creature (beginning of Ch. 20) and compare them with his reasons for creating the Creature in the first place (Chapters 4 & 5). Has Frankenstein learned his lesson? If so, then how do you account for the disasters that follow? If not, explain what moral feelings he exhibits here.

Chapters 22-23

- Describe your reactions to a character, action, or idea presented in these chapters.
- Do you have questions to ask a character about his thoughts, motives, or actions?

Chapter 24 - closing letters

- Explain the sources of the interdependence between Frankenstein and the Creature during the chase in the final chapters. Why for example, does the Creature leave clues and perhaps even food behind for his enemy?
- What is the significance of the landscape that dominates the final scenes of the novel?
- Consider and comment on Walton's final assessment of Frankenstein as a "glorious creature . . . noble and godlike in ruin" (Ch. 24).
- Compare Frankenstein's remarks on the pursuit of glory (Ch. 24) with his earlier warnings to Walton early in the novel (Letter 4).