



Excellence & Opportunity

Post-16 Transition Support

A Level English Literature

Transition Project

In preparation for your course, you should complete the following tasks:

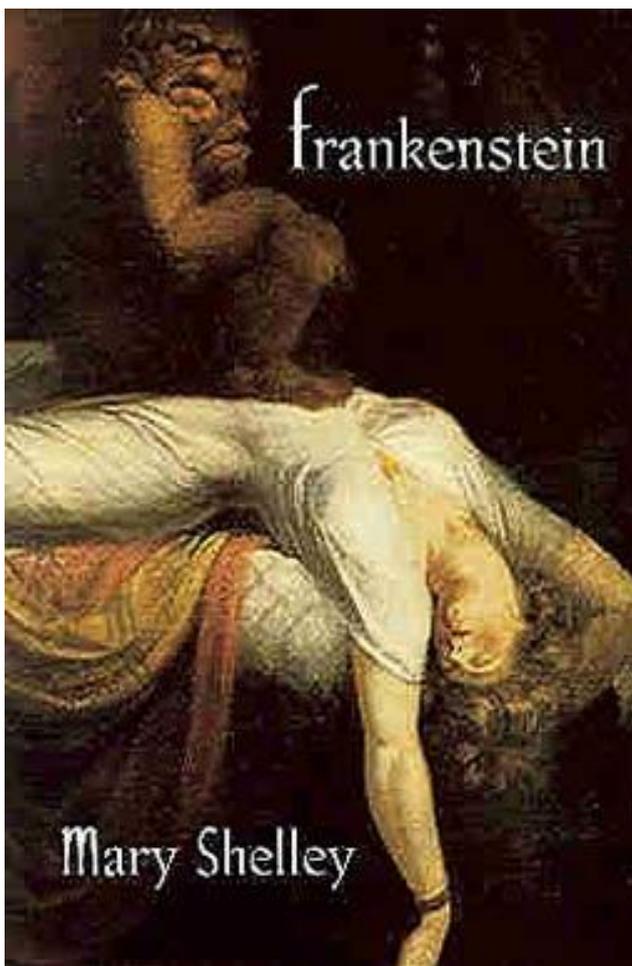
Below is just the very beginning; the story of *Frankenstein* has held readers spellbound for generations. As part of your English literature course, *Frankenstein* is the one of the texts you are likely to read and discuss. You should read *Frankenstein* and complete a number of tasks in order to enhance your understanding of the text.

The text is available online:

<http://literature.org/authors/shelley-mary/frankenstein/>

<http://pd.sparknotes.com/lit/frankenstein/>

<http://www.classicly.com/read-frankenstein-online-free>



Dr. Victor Frankenstein wanted to create perfection. Mixing science and alchemy, he wanted to stitch the rotting remains of the stolen dead into a living giant of superhuman strength and beauty. He almost succeeded.

The thing breathed, it moved, it opened its eyes...and at the sight, the young doctor fled into the night, shrieking with horror. When Frankenstein returned to his lab, the creature was gone.

But it was still alive. Seeking friends, the fiend found enemies: seeking hope, it found hate. Loathed by humanity, shunned by its own maker, the monster vowed to get revenge for having been born. Unstoppable, unholy, it would travel to the ends of the earth to destroy its creator --

By destroying everyone Frankenstein loved...



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Research the following and make notes on these areas:

1. Romanticism:
2. French Revolution:
3. Galvanism:
4. Framed and embedded narratives

Task 1

After reading the first 4 chapters of *Frankenstein*, devise 3 comprehension style questions on what you have read so far (**E.g.**: What does Robert Walton say about his encounter with Victor Frankenstein?)

Task 2

Frankenstein has been an inspiration of many subsequent works of fiction as well as films and television programmes: where man has tried to do more than what falls within his physical capacity. Write a brief synopsis of any such work of fiction or film that you are aware of where man has tried to do go beyond his powers and limitations.

Task 3

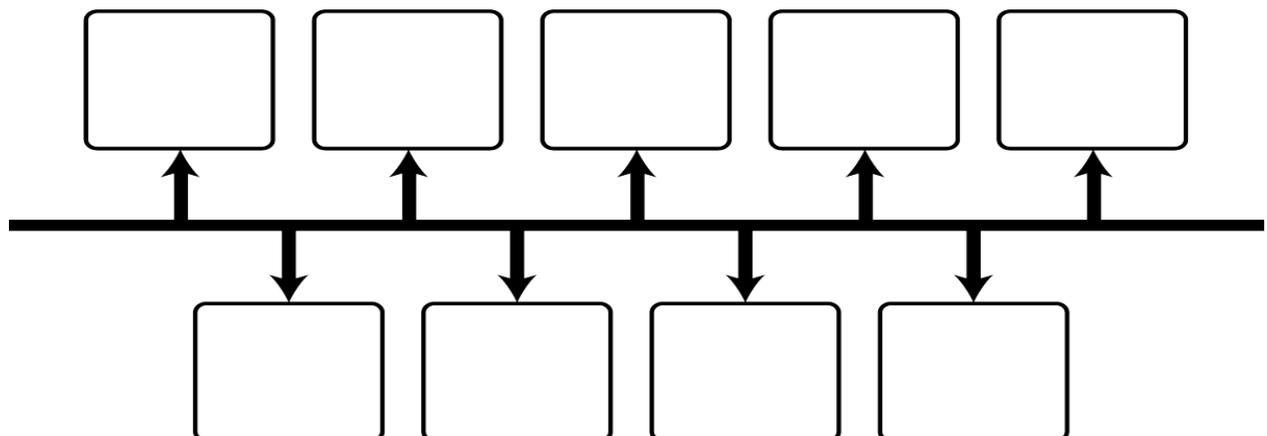
After having read chapters 5 to 8 create a mind map of the main themes presented so far. Include quotations from the text

Task 4

After reading chapters 9 and 10, write a dramatic monologue from the perspective of Victor Frankenstein. (What would be going through his mind at this stage?)

Task 5

After reading chapters 11 to 16, create a timeline on the key events that befall the creature. Determine and include a timeframe for these events.



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Task 6

Give brief answers after reading the following chapters.

Chapters 17-18

1. What, according to the creature, is the cause of his wickedness and what will be the remedy?
2. Why does Victor refuse to make a female monster?
3. What are some of the reasons Victor feels he must go to England to complete his task?

Chapters 19-20

4. How are the Scottish isles described where Victor begins his work?
5. Give two reasons why Victor changes his mind about making the second creature.

Chapters 21-22

6. Who has been murdered, and why is Victor accused of the murder?
7. What does the word “torpor” mean in the following context: “But my general state of being was a torpor, in which a prison was as welcome a residence as the divinest scene in nature”?
8. What evidence is there to suggest what the creature really means by his threat to be with Frankenstein on his wedding night?

Chapter 23-24

9. What is Frankenstein’s only reason of existence?
10. On his deathbed, Victor admits that he had an obligation to make sure his creature had a happy life. What is ironic about the excuse he offers for not doing so?

Task 7

After finishing the text, plot out ideas for an alternative ending to the story. This could be told from Victor’s, the Creature’s or Walton’s point of view. Bullet point your ideas.

Once this is complete, write a brief commentary which explains your choices for ending the novel.