

Prologue and Chapter 1

1. Is Robert Walton's goal to find "a passage near the pole" noble or overly ambitious?
2. How does Robert's desire for a friend affect his relationship with Dr. Frankenstein?
3. Describe what is significant about the setting in creating the mood.
4. Why do you believe Victor begins his story at his birth? Why does he discuss his father's closest friend Beaufort? How does Shelley introduce important aspects of various characters by allowing them to tell their own stories (1st person POV)?
5. As Victor describes his adopted sister as "my more than sister, since til death she was to be mine only," (End of chapter 1) what can you infer about their relationship and what predictions can you make about the significance of that relationship later in the story?

Chapters 2-3

1. What effect does the lightning storm have on Victor? How does it appeal to his love of science?
2. How do Henry and Victor differ? Why might Shelley be setting them up as character foils (characters set up to be opposite)?
3. How does the statement, "Wealth was an inferior object, but what glory would attend the discovery if I could banish disease from the human frame and render man invulnerable to any but a violent death!" characterize Victor?
4. What is the Philosopher's Stone? Is Victor's fascination with the Philosopher's Stone an admirable one?
5. The desire for knowledge and science is usually a good thing, but are there times it can have negative effects? Explain.
6. Victor mentions fate or destiny more than once while on this new journey in his life. What role might fate play in this story?
7. Define: alchemy and chimera.

Chapters 4-6

1. Victor's obsession with natural science results in two years passing with no visits home. How would you evaluate his character at this point?
2. Describe the shift in tone when Victor tells Robert, "Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example, how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge and how much happier the man is who believes his native town to be the world, than he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow."
3. During his summer experiment, Victor admits "his eyes were insensible to the charms of nature." What role might nature (or the lack of it) play for Victor?
4. What message might Victor be missing when he dreams that his kiss turns Elizabeth into a corpse?

Chapters 7-10

Refer to document, which was posted under the "Reading Schedule" at the top of the *Frankenstein* page.

Chapters 11-13

1. What imagery does Shelley employ when the monster describes his "awakening?" What does his reaction remind you of?
2. How does the change in narration to the monster's point of view affect your interpretation of the novel? Do you feel sympathy for the creature when he is rejected by humanity?
3. How does the DeLacey family play a crucial role in the creature's development?
4. Based on the thoughts and feelings the monster has had for the DeLacey family, characterize the monster. Predict what he will do next.

Chapters 14-16

1. Consider the role of fate/destiny in this story. Discuss Shelley's purpose in intertwining the fates of the Frankenstein's, the monster, the DeLacey family, and even Robert Walton.
2. Evaluate the monster's plan to meet Mr DeLacey first. Was there a flaw in his plan? What, if anything, could he have done differently in that situation?
3. Why did the monster not kill the DeLacey family when they, too, rejected him?
4. How does the monster's attempt to save the little girl from drowning exacerbate the conflict he is already experiencing?
5. Predict what will come of the monster's request for a female companion.

Bonus: Research *Paradise Lost* by Milton. What connections might the monster make to this story. Why did Shelley allude to this literary work? Compare this to his comments about Adam, from the Bible.

Chapters 17-19 (continued from previous chapters)

1. What events cause the monster to become bitter? Complete the diagram below with what happens to the Monster at each stage.

- A. The Monster is rejected by Victor so he _____.
- B. He has contact with the village, but they _____.
- C. Observing the family he learns _____.
- D. Direct contact with the family, but again _____.
- E. He rescues the girl from the river only _____.
- F. Angry and bitter he goes to find Victor. On the way he _____.

2. The Monster's desire for knowledge is the same as Victor's. He wants to find out about the origins of his existence, but when he does, the truth horrifies him. With knowledge comes freedom. However, it also brings

responsibility. Having learnt the Monster's story, do you sympathise with him? How responsible do you think he is for his crimes?

3. . Is the creature's demand for a female companion a valid request? Examine the pros and cons of Victor's compliance. Consider evidence provided by both Victor and the creature.

4. Compare Victor's solitude in these chapters (as he travels through Europe) to the solitude the monster has experienced.

Chapters 20-21

1. What evidence suggests Victor feels responsibility for the murders? What evidence illustrates that he still blames the creature?

2. After watching his female companion torn to bits, the creature makes an eloquent defense and vows Victor will "repent of the injuries (he) inflicts." Is the creature justified in his feelings? Why or why not? What is Shelley's purpose in his defense?

3. After hearing of Henry Clerval's murder, Victor falls ill once again. In agony, he wonders, "Why did I not die?" What would your answer be? Is there a reason for his continued anguish?

4. Make predictions about Victor's fate (the trial, his marriage, etc.). The creature's fate (what will he do next?).

Chapters 22-23

1. For Victor and his father, what purpose would a quick marriage to Elizabeth serve? Discuss the impact on Elizabeth. What role does she continue to play? Does her death alter or perpetuate that role?

2. Discuss the irony in Victor's statement to the magistrate: "Man, how ignorant art thou in thy pride of wisdom!"

3. What is the motivation behind Victor's vow to find and destroy his creature? Has he learned any lessons?