



Frankenstein

BASED ON THE CLASSIC
NOVEL BY MARY SHELLEY

Scientist Victor Frankenstein creates a monster. Can he destroy it before it destroys him? Read this adaptation of Mary Shelley's chilling masterpiece and find out.

.....Characters.....

Write your initials next to the character you're going to read.

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ CAPTAIN'S LOG, <i>Captain Walton's journal entries</i> | _____ ELIZABETH, <i>Victor's fiancée</i> |
| *NARRATOR 1, (N1)
<i>Victor, looking back</i> | *HENRY CLERVAL, <i>Victor's best friend</i> |
| *NARRATOR 2, (N2)
<i>same as above</i> | _____ FATHER, <i>Victor's father</i> |
| *NARRATOR 3, (N3)
<i>same as above</i> | *CREATURE, <i>Frankenstein's monster</i> |
| *NARRATOR 4, (N4)
<i>same as above</i> | _____ MR. DELACEY, <i>an old blind man</i> |
| _____ CAPTAIN WALTON, <i>an explorer</i> | _____ AGATHA, <i>DeLacey's teenage daughter</i> |
| *VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN, <i>a young scientist</i> | _____ FELIX, <i>DeLacey's teenage son</i> |

*Starred characters are major roles.

SCENE 1

CAPTAIN'S LOG: The middle of the Arctic Ocean, October 31, 1806. Today, as my crew and I continued our arduous journey toward the North Pole, we saw a man, half-dead, stranded on the ice! Once we'd helped him aboard our ship, he explained how he came to be alone in this wilderness. Here is his story.

SCENE 2

N1: My name is Victor Frankenstein. I will tell you my horrible tale in hope that you may learn from it. My problems began when, at age 17, I left my family and fiancée, Elizabeth, in Geneva, Switzerland, to study at a university a few hun-

dred miles away.

ELIZABETH: Victor, my love. Study hard, and come back soon.

VICTOR: Goodbye, Elizabeth. When I return, I'll be the most famous scientist in the world!

N2: One day I would marry my childhood sweetheart, but first, I had work to do. As soon as I arrived at the university, I set up my private lab and began my work.

N3: I worked hard, perhaps too hard. My best friend, Henry Clerval, was a student at the same college, but I rarely saw him. One day, I came home to find Henry in my lab.

HENRY: Victor, you don't look well. Don't you ever sleep?

VICTOR: Sleep can wait. My studies are too important.

HENRY (looking around): What on earth is going on in here?

VICTOR: It's too technical, Henry. You're not a scientist. You wouldn't understand.

N4: To tell the truth, my work was too **controversial** to discuss. I didn't know how much Henry had seen. I tried to change the subject.

VICTOR: What can I do for you?

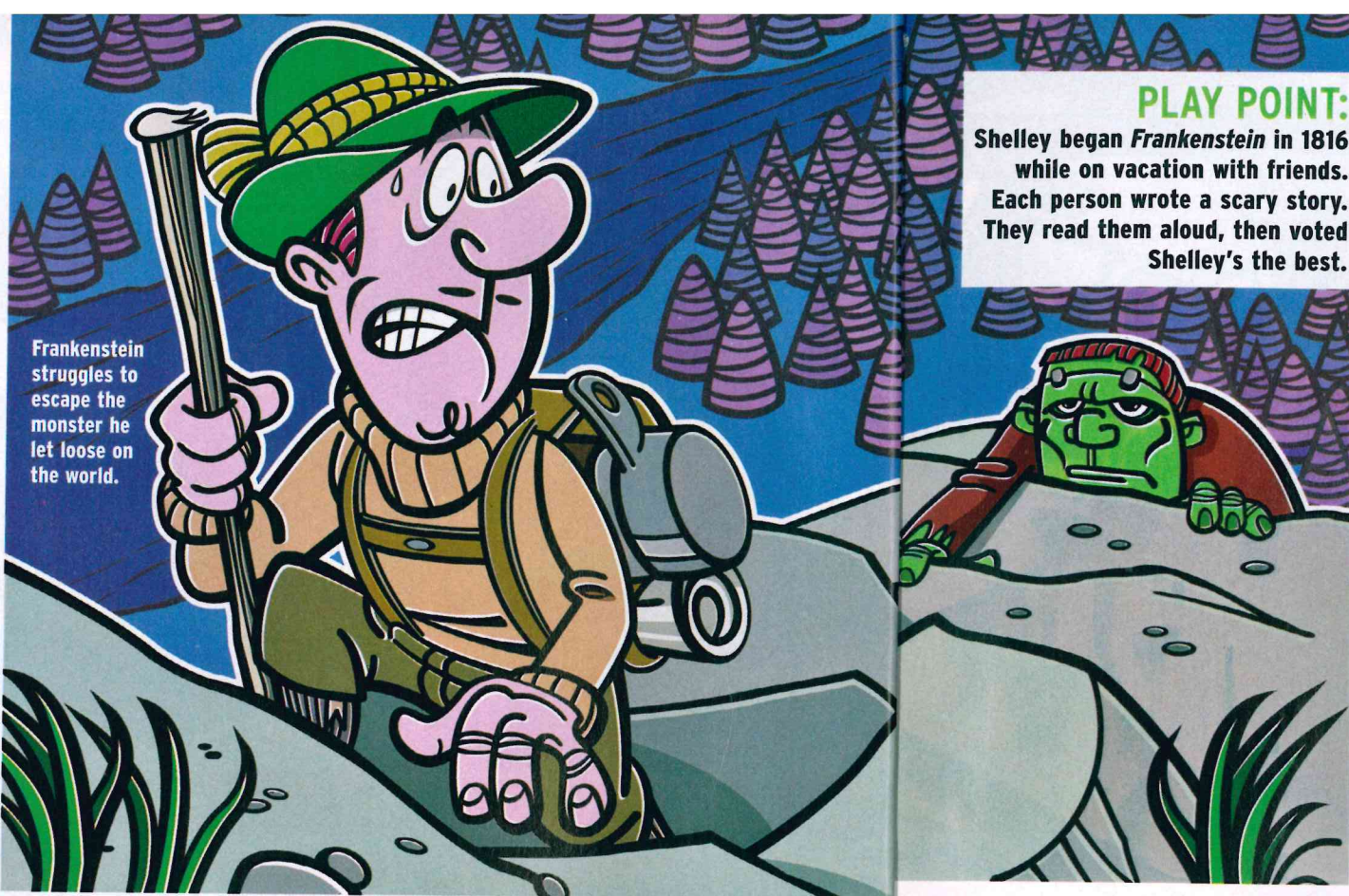
HENRY: Victor, tell me my eyes are playing tricks on me. I saw a human head floating in that tank! What are you going to do with it?

N1: Clearly, I had no choice but to tell him everything.

VICTOR: I'll tell you, but you can't tell anyone! I've unlocked the secret of life and death!

HENRY: What do you mean? Did you kill someone?

VICTOR: Of course not, just the oppo-



Frankenstein struggles to escape the monster he let loose on the world.

site! I've found the secret to creating new life. If all goes well, I will create a living, thinking human being!

HENRY: But why is there a human head in that tank?

VICTOR: I've collected materials from the hospital **morgue**. Listen to me, Henry.

There's too much misery in the world. I'm trying to create a happy, healthy, human.

HENRY: Can you really create living people?

VICTOR: I haven't done it yet. First, I must make a figure out of

body parts. Then, I'll soak it in a mixture of chemicals. The last magical ingredient is electricity!

HENRY: Victor, that's insane!

What you're doing is immoral!

VICTOR: This is a new age. Science and philosophy are advancing like never before.

HENRY: Yes, but this is unnatural!

VICTOR: No it isn't, Henry! If scientists refuse to explore new ideas just because they're scary, we'll never move forward!

N2: I knew Henry didn't understand. But I knew he would keep my secret. After Henry left, I put the finishing touches on my creature, mixing chemicals in a large tank.

VICTOR (to himself): Now all I need is some help from the heavens.

N3: It had been threatening to rain all day. Soon, there was a loud clap of thunder, and then rain began to pour from the sky.

VICTOR: Come, lightning! Come, life!

N4: I opened the skylight window and set up a lightning rod. A huge bolt of lightning charged through the window and traveled down the

PLAY POINT:

Shelley began *Frankenstein* in 1816 while on vacation with friends. Each person wrote a scary story. They read them aloud, then voted Shelley's the best.



VICTOR: No! Help!

N4: My experiment had worked. But something had gone terribly wrong.

Instead of being beautiful, this creature was hideous. It was eight feet tall and ugly. Its papery yellow skin barely hid the muscles and organs beneath. Its lips were black, and its eyes held a look of pure evil.

VICTOR: Get away from me, monster!

N1: It moved toward me, reaching its huge yellow hand in my direction. **Distraught**, I ran away to Henry's apartment, and told him the whole story.

HENRY: We must call the police!

VICTOR: No! Think of what they would do to me!

HENRY: But there's no telling what kind of trouble that thing could cause to innocent people!

N2: Finally, Henry convinced me to return to the lab. But all that was left was broken glass and wood. The creature was gone.

SCENE 3

N1: The lightning must have knocked me out. Hours later, I awoke on the floor of my lab. I peered into the tank. To my surprise, the body parts I had stitched together had disappeared.

VICTOR (to himself): Perhaps the electric shock was so great it blew my experiment to pieces.

N2: Suddenly there was a noise from behind a door. I thought Henry had returned to check on me.

VICTOR: Go away!

N3: But the noise didn't stop. Instead, the closet door swung open. I found myself face-to-face with the most horrible-looking creature I had ever seen.

SAY IT! morgue — MORG

SCENE 4

N3: For months, I was terrified my monster would turn up somewhere, but he never did. I began to cheer up, thinking my problems were over. Then, I received an awful letter from my father.

FATHER: Dear Victor: It pains me to tell you that your little brother, William, has been murdered.

N4: In shock, I found Henry and we traveled home to Geneva.

VICTOR: Who would harm poor William? He was only 10 years old!

N1: When we arrived in Geneva, my darling Elizabeth told us what had happened.

ELIZABETH: William disappeared one

evening. When we finally found him, he was dead. He'd been strangled. The murderer left huge hand marks on his little neck.

N2: In my grief, I began to suspect who the killer was.

VICTOR (to himself): Could my monster have survived and killed my beloved brother?

N3: Soon, things took another tragic turn. William's nanny, Justine, was arrested for his murder. Although there was no solid proof against her, Justine was tried and hanged.

VICTOR (to himself): Am I now responsible for the deaths of two innocent people?

N4: I was haunted by guilt. I decided to go on a climbing vacation to help my spirits. One morning as I was resting on a mountainside, I saw something in the distance.

VICTOR: It can't be!

N1: Somehow the creature had found me. It was climbing toward me quickly. Before long, it was upon me. **VICTOR:** Leave me alone! Or better yet, stay so I can kill you! I only wish your death could bring back your two victims!

CREATURE: I feared that you would treat me this way. But how can you, my creator, hate me?

VICTOR: I never should have created you! I'll kill you right now!

N2: I attacked the monster, but he knocked me down as if I were a fly.

CREATURE: You created me. You were my mother and father. But you called me a monster and sent me away. You, who should have nurtured and taught me. And now you try to kill me?

VICTOR: You're a murderer! You killed my brother and Justine!

CREATURE: All of you humans **abhor** me on sight. Am I wrong to hate back? I was created with a good

heart, so why am I evil? I will tell you my story.

N3: I had no choice but to listen.

SCENE 5

N4: The creature told me that after he left my home, he ran into the hills. He tried to make contact with people, but everyone was terrified of him.

CREATURE: I eventually stopped running and found an empty cabin. An old blind man named Mr. DeLacey lived in the house next door with his children, Agatha and Felix.

N1: The monster watched and listened to everything the family did without being seen. He learned to speak from listening to them. He even learned to read by watching the children read to their father.

CREATURE: I came to love the DeLacey family. Finally, I decided to meet them. I waited until the blind father was home alone. If I could win his friendship, perhaps the rest of the family would welcome me. One day I knocked at the DeLaceys' door.

DELACEY: Come in. Who are you?

CREATURE: I am a traveler in want of a little rest.

DELACEY: Please sit by the fire. Where are you heading?

CREATURE: I am trying to find some friends of mine. They've never met me in person, so I feel very nervous about meeting them. If they reject me, I will be an outcast forever.

DELACEY: Don't be afraid. Most people are friendly unless they are blinded by prejudice.

CREATURE: At that moment, I heard footsteps. Felix and Agatha opened

PLAY POINT: Frankenstein's monster has appeared in hundreds of movies, including *Frankenweenie* and *I was a Teenage Frankenstein*.



Captain Walton watches as the monster escapes.

the cottage door. When they saw me, their faces twisted in revulsion.

AGATHA: What a hideous monster!

CREATURE: Felix darted forward and pulled me away from Old Mr. DeLacey.

FELIX: Get away from my father, you brute!

CREATURE: I could have killed Felix easily, but instead I ran back into the hills. After that, I knew there was no hope for me among humans.

SCENE 6

N2: After he left the DeLaceys, the creature searched for me. He read the return address on a letter he had stolen from my lab, and followed me to Geneva.

CREATURE: Although I hated you for sending me away, you were the only one who could help me.

VICTOR: But why kill my brother?

CREATURE: I didn't mean to kill him.

At first I thought he might be my friend because he was too young to have prejudices. When he screamed and called me a monster, I got angry and strangled him.

VICTOR: What do you want from me?

CREATURE: Humans want nothing to do with me. I need a real companion—a female who is like me—who can love me. You must make a bride for me.

VICTOR: Never! I will not bring more evil into the world!

CREATURE: I'm evil only because there's no love in my life. With a companion, I'd be at peace.

N3: I began to see his argument. Perhaps I was partly to blame for his situation.

VICTOR: All right. I'll do this if you swear that you'll never again bother any human beings.

CREATURE: My companion and I will leave the human world forever.

Please begin your work. I will return before you finish.

N4: With that, the creature was gone.

SCENE 7

N1: The idea of making a monster bride disgusted me. But I knew it was the only way to rid myself of the creature.

N2: I rented a small cottage in the middle of nowhere and began my horrible task. One night as I reached the final stage, I had a terrifying thought.

VICTOR: What if the two creatures have children? They might create a whole population of monsters! I can't take that chance!

N3: I grabbed a hammer and destroyed my entire lab.

VICTOR: No more! I won't do it!

N4: I sensed a presence nearby. I swung around and found the creature standing in the doorway.

CREATURE: How dare you break your promise and destroy my hopes!

VICTOR: Get away from me! With all the misery you've caused, I'd be insane to create another monster like you!

CREATURE: You only *think* you're miserable now. I can make it so that you will hate the light of day! You are my creator, but I am your master. Now, obey me!

VICTOR: Do not poison the air with your evil words! Get out of here, or kill me now. I don't care!

CREATURE: I will leave, but I will not do you the favor of killing you now. But beware: I will be with you on your wedding night!

SCENE 8

N1: When I returned to Geneva, I learned that my good friend Henry had been murdered. I was devastated. I knew it was the work of the creature. I pulled myself together. Elizabeth and I had a wonderful life ahead of us.

N2: On our wedding night we went to an island off the coast of Spain. I knew the creature would find a way to join us. I was determined to defeat him.

N3: I took a stroll around the property looking for him. I had a pistol in my pocket and a sword in my belt.

VICTOR (to himself): Where are you? I feel your presence.

N4: Suddenly, I heard a **shrill** cry.

VICTOR: Elizabeth! No!

N1: I raced back only to find my beautiful bride dead. It had never

occurred to me that he would kill Elizabeth. As I looked out the open window, I could see the creature running into the hills.

VICTOR: Foul villain! I will kill you! If I have to travel to the ends of the earth, I will find you!

SCENE 9

VICTOR (back on the ship): I've been chasing the creature ever since. Now I am dying.

CAPTAIN WALTON: Rest easy, friend. You might recover.

VICTOR: I don't mind dying. I'm a failure. I failed to nurture my creation when he needed me. Then I failed to stop him before his evil destroyed innocent lives. Promise me that if you ever see the creature, you'll kill him—not only for the good and **solidarity** of all humanity, but to bring peace to my poor soul.

SCENE 10

CAPTAIN'S LOG: November 1, 1806. Victor Frankenstein died last night. When I entered his cabin to prepare his body for burial, I found the creature standing over him.

CREATURE: I came to beg for his forgiveness. I killed everyone he ever loved. I hated him, but not as much as I hate myself. I caused him terrible suffering. Now, I have no more feelings. All that is left for me is death.

CAPTAIN'S LOG: Suddenly, he leapt from the cabin window onto a raft of ice. He was soon carried away by the waves, and lost in the darkness of the sea. ■

PLAY POINT: "Frankenstein" is the name of the scientist. The creature he makes has no name except "Frankenstein's monster."

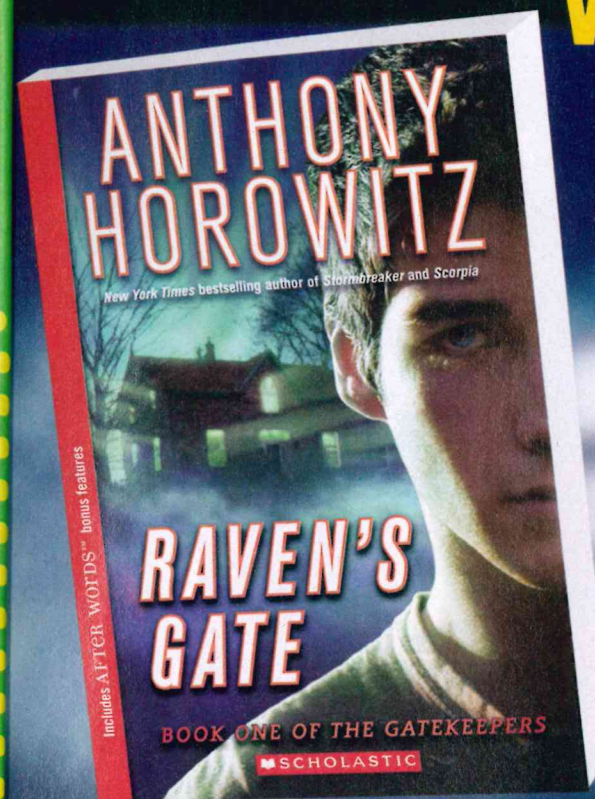
No-Sweat Test Prep

Don't be afraid—these questions aren't as scary as the play you just read!

STRATEGY: Notice which type of question is asked (see parentheses)—so you'll be ready to tackle all questions on the big tests!

- 1 **What is the name of the monster? (reading comprehension)**
 - A Frankenstein
 - B The Incredible Hulk
 - C He doesn't have a name.
 - D The Shadow
- 2 **Why does Victor Frankenstein make a monster? (understanding character motivation)**
 - A He wants to create a perfect human.
 - B He wants to take him trick-or-treating.
 - C He wants the monster to be his servant.
 - D He is lonely and hopes they will be friends.
- 3 **How does Victor's life change after he creates the monster? (cause & effect)**
 - A He becomes the most famous scientist in Europe.
 - B His life becomes filled with fear and sadness.
 - C He marries and raises a family.
 - D He finally has a friend he can count on.
- 4 **Why does the monster kill Victor's new bride, Elizabeth? (inference)**
 - A Frankenstein refused to create a bride for *him*.
 - B Elizabeth refused to invite him to the wedding.
 - C He doesn't think she will make a good wife.
 - D She threw the bouquet to someone else.
- 5 **Where and when does Victor first talk to the monster? (sequencing)**
 - A in his lab, just after the monster comes to life
 - B on a mountainside, months after he is created
 - C on an island, during Victor's honeymoon
 - D on board a ship headed for the North Pole
- 6 **Why does Henry visit Victor's lab? (inference)**
 - A He has a message for Victor from Elizabeth.
 - B He wonders why Victor is keeping to himself.
 - C He wants to help Victor complete his ground-breaking work.
 - D He is afraid of the monster.
- 7 **According to the monster, why does he become violent? (understanding character development)**
 - A because he is stronger than humans
 - B because he is lonely and tired of rejection
 - C because he wants to make Victor happy
 - D because he's been playing violent video games
- 8 **How is Victor Frankenstein different from his monster? (compare & contrast)**
 - A Victor is much taller.
 - B Victor has friends and a family.
 - C Victor wants a wife.
 - D Victor has feelings.
- 9 **Why does Frankenstein refuse to create a bride for his monster? (understanding plot)**
 - A He thinks the monster is too young to marry.
 - B He wants him to make his own friends.
 - C He doesn't believe the monster can love.
 - D He's afraid the monsters might have children.
- 10 **Which of the following would *NOT* be a good alternate title for the play? (main idea)**
 - A *Mr. Congeniality*
 - B *If Looks Could Kill*
 - C *Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover*
 - D *I Am What You Made Me*

The book isn't over when the story ends



Anthony Horowitz, bestselling author of *Stormbreaker*, takes you behind the scenes of *Raven's Gate*.

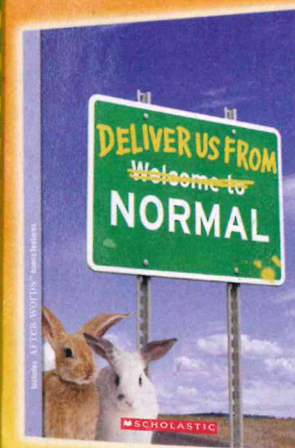
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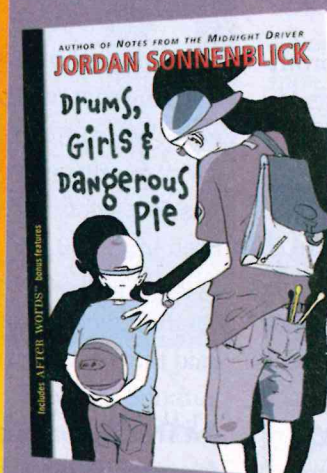
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A Sneak Peek at *Far from Normal*



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