

ASSESSMENT QUIZ

FRANKENSTEIN

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The questions on this quiz are drawn from two sources: the novel itself, and the reading companion that came with it, its author biography, historical context, allegorical layer, and scientific payload. Some ask about what happens in the story; others ask about the ideas and the science the companion explains. Answer from both. For each multiple choice question, choose the single best answer.

This quiz follows the 1818 text of the novel, the version first published. A later edition from 1831 changes some details.

01. Why is Walton in the Arctic when he finds Victor?

- (A) He is hunting whales for a merchant company
- (B) He is leading an expedition to find a passage through the far north
- (C) He is fleeing a crime he committed in England
- (D) He has been sent to hunt down the creature

02. What does Victor study at university that makes his work possible?

- (A) Law and politics
- (B) Natural philosophy and chemistry
- (C) Painting and drawing
- (D) Navigation and astronomy

03. How long does the creature live in hiding beside the cottagers before he reveals himself?

- (A) A single night
- (B) More than a year
- (C) Ten years
- (D) He never hides; he introduces himself the day he arrives

04. Whom does the creature kill after Victor destroys the female?

- (A) Justine Moritz
- (B) Henry Clerval, Victor's closest friend
- (C) Robert Walton
- (D) Victor's father, Alphonse

05. What does Victor do about Justine's trial?

- (A) He testifies on her behalf and saves her life
- (B) He says nothing, although he knows who the real killer is
- (C) He confesses to the murder himself to protect her
- (D) He helps her escape from prison

06. Where does the final chase between Victor and the creature end?

- (A) In the streets of Geneva
- (B) On the Arctic ice
- (C) Back at the university in Ingolstadt
- (D) In London

07. Where did the idea for Frankenstein come from?

- (A) A dream Mary Shelley had as a small child
- (B) A ghost story contest among friends staying at Lake Geneva in 1816
- (C) A newspaper report of a real murder trial
- (D) A publisher who commissioned her to write it

08. In 1816, while Mary Shelley was writing, British surgeons were publicly arguing about what?

- (A) Whether surgery should be taught at universities
- (B) What life actually is: something added to the body from outside, or simply the result of how the body is organised
- (C) Whether women should be permitted to publish novels
- (D) The correct way to set a broken bone

09. Why did real anatomists in Britain have trouble getting bodies to dissect?

- (A) Bodies were too expensive to transport
- (B) The law allowed them only the bodies of executed murderers, so grave robbers supplied the rest
- (C) Dissection was completely legal and bodies were plentiful
- (D) Only bodies brought from other countries could be used

10. Which part of the body is damaged fastest when blood flow stops?

- (A) The bones
- (B) The skin
- (C) The brain
- (D) The muscles of the legs

11. The kidney used in the first successful transplant went 82 minutes without blood and still worked normally. What does that tell you about Victor's problem?

- (A) That any organ can last for hours, so his plan is sound
 (B) That different tissues survive very different lengths of time without blood, and the brain survives the shortest
 (C) That the kidney is the most important organ in the body
 (D) Nothing; the two situations have nothing in common

12. Electricity applied to a dead muscle makes it contract. Why is that not the same thing as life?

- ☐ (A) Because the contraction is too small to be seen
☐ (B) Because the contraction is driven from outside and coordinates nothing, while a living body runs and regulates itself
☐ (C) Because it only works on animals, not on people
☐ (D) It is the same thing as life

13. Where do the flat head, the neck bolts, the laboratory full of equipment, and the cry of “It’s alive!” come from?

- ☐ A The 1818 novel
☐ B The 1931 film, not the novel
☐ C Mary Shelley's private letters
☐ D A stage play that Mary Shelley wrote herself

14. The word “Frankenfood” was coined in a letter to a newspaper in 1992. What was it used to attack?

- ☐ (A) Fast food restaurants
☐ (B) Genetically modified crops
☐ (C) Food rationing during wartime
☐ (D) A brand of frozen dinners

15. What does the novel suggest is Victor's real failure?

- Ⓐ That he was not clever enough to finish his work properly
- Ⓑ That he made the creature at all
- Ⓒ That he abandoned what he made and refused to take responsibility for it
- Ⓓ That he told too many people about his discovery

Answer each question in three to five sentences.

The creature says, “I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend.” Using at least two specific things that happen to him in the novel, explain how he changes. Then give your own judgement: does that explanation excuse what he does?

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Victor’s experiment succeeds. The creature lives. Explain why the novel treats what Victor does next as the real disaster, and describe what he would have had to do differently.

Victor builds his creature out of bodies taken from graves and dissecting rooms. Using what you know about how quickly the brain is damaged when blood stops flowing, explain why the creature’s mind is a bigger scientific problem than the rest of its body.

[illegible]