



**CHESTERTON ACADEMY  
OF THE SACRED HEART**

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
Senior Summer Reading**

Created in response to Lord Byron's whimsical suggestion to "write a ghost story," Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* has inspired ghost stories, horror films, comedy movies, cartoons, stuffed toys, breakfast cereals, car decals, art, and countless other creative items in the centuries since its conception, not to mention creating a gateway for tales of vampires, werewolves, and aliens. It is a thoughtful tale of the limitations of humanity in a scientific age that was quickly casting away older, revealed truths, and it could not have been written at any previous point in history. This story has captured readers' imaginations for centuries, and this narrative is the literary key to understanding the modern world around us.

1. Where is Walton heading when he writes to his sister? What is his greatest lamentation about being on the voyage? Why does he care so much about the voyage?
2. How would you characterize Victor's father? How did he come to marry Caroline? How does Elizabeth come to be Victor's sister?
3. Who is Henry Clerval? Describe him.
4. What city is home to Victor's parents? How does Justine become part of the family?
5. How does Victor assemble the parts for his creature? Why does he make the creature so large?
6. Why does Victor leave the creature alone in the laboratory? What does the creature do? Where does Victor go after the creature disappears?
7. Why is Justine accused of murder?
8. Where exactly is Victor when he first sees the creature near his home? Where exactly is Victor when he first speaks to the creature?

9. How did the creature learn to speak? What books did the creature read?
10. Why does the creature approach William? Why does the creature then kill William?
11. What is the creature's reaction to finding Justine in the barn?
12. What does the creature demand from Victor? Why is it so important to him? What is the creature's threat if Victor doesn't comply?
13. Why does Victor destroy his second creation? Did Victor make the right decision? What promise does the creature give Victor after the second creature is destroyed?
14. What becomes of Clerval?
15. What becomes of Elizabeth?
16. What becomes of Victor's father?
17. According to the creature, why did he do such horrible things?
18. What does he vow to do at the end?

**And now, some really fun (rewarding) questions:**

19. Research Question: What was going on in Mary Shelley's life at the time she wrote *Frankenstein*?
20. How is the Catholic Church portrayed in this story? Cite at least two examples to support your claims.
21. Is the creature pitiful? Examine the text carefully, and answer the question thoughtfully.
22. What are the scariest parts of this tale? Is it what you would expect from a "ghost story," or a tale about monsters? Is there anything about it that is different than what you would expect in a "ghost story," or tale about monsters?
23. What does it mean to "sport with life?" (page 68)
24. Why does the creature say, "I shall be with you on your wedding night?" (page 123)
25. Why did this book carry the subtitle, "A Modern Prometheus?"