



Frankenstein

Mary Shelley

ABOUT THIS BOOK

For the Student

- 👂 Listen to the story and do some activities on your Audio CD.
- 🗣️ Talk about the story.
- ★ Prepare for Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET) for schools.

For the Teacher

HELBLING e-ZONE A state-of-the-art interactive learning environment with 1000s of free online self-correcting activities for your chosen readers.

Go to our Readers Resource site for information on using readers and downloadable Resource Sheets, photocopiable Worksheets, and Tapescripts.
www.helblingreaders.com

For lots of great ideas on using Graded Readers consult [Reading Matters](#), the Teacher's Guide to using Helbling Readers.

Modal verb would	Non-defining relative clauses
I'd love to . . .	Present perfect continuous
Future continuous	Used to / would
Present perfect future	Used to / used to doing
Reported speech / verbs / questions	Second conditional
Past perfect	Expressing wishes and regrets
Defining relative clauses	

Structures from lower levels are also included.

CONTENTS

About the Author	4
About the Book	6
Before Reading	8

Introduction	13
Chapter 1	15
Chapter 2	19
Chapter 3	22
Chapter 4	25
Chapter 5	30
Chapter 6	36
Chapter 7	39
Chapter 8	43
Chapter 9	48
Chapter 10	58
Chapter 11	60
Chapter 12	64
Chapter 13	67
Conclusion	74

After Reading	80
Test	91
Project Work	94

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was born Mary Godwin in 1797. She was an English writer and wrote novels, short stories, plays and travel books. *Frankenstein*, published anonymously in 1818 when she was 20, is her best-known work. She was married to the English Romantic¹ poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.

Mary's mother died when Mary was only eleven days old. Her father married his neighbor, Mary Jane Clairmont, four years later. In 1814, Mary Godwin fell in love with Shelley, who was married. Together with Mary's stepsister, Claire Clairmont, they left for France and traveled around Europe. They married in 1816 after the suicide² of Shelley's first wife, Harriet.



In 1816, Mary and Percy spent their summer holiday with Lord Byron and other friends near Geneva, Switzerland. This was where Mary began writing *Frankenstein*, after the friends had a competition for the best horror story. The Shelleys left Britain in 1818 for Italy. They had two children but both of them died. Finally Mary had a son, Percy. But in 1822, her husband died. His boat sank during a storm and he drowned³. A year later, Mary returned to England. She looked after her son and earned money as a writer. She was ill for the last ten years of her life. She finally died of a brain tumor⁴ at the age of 53.

Until the 1970s, Mary Shelley was known mainly for *Frankenstein*. But recently her other historical novels *Valperga* (1823) and travel books *Rambles*⁵ in *Germany and Italy* (1844) were discovered.

- 1 Romantic: a group of English poets of the 18th century
- 2 suicide: killing oneself
- 3 drowned: died in water
- 4 brain tumor: cancer of the brain
- 5 rambles: walks

ABOUT THE BOOK

Frankenstein is a novel about a young science student who creates a creature as a scientific experiment. It is a great horror story but also discusses ideas about philosophy and questions man's right to "play God." It is a very early example of science fiction.

During the summer of 1816, Mary Shelley traveled to Geneva with her husband Percy Shelley, Lord Byron, and others. The weather was too bad for outdoor activities, so the friends spent time inside. They read ghost stories and then had a competition to write the best horror story. Mary dreamt about a scientist who created life but was horrified by the "thing" he had made; her dream became the story of *Frankenstein*.



As well as being a warning about the dangers of obsession¹, the novel also talks about the problem of being lonely. The monster only becomes violent because he is rejected² for his appearance, not because he is naturally evil³. He shows himself to have a good character several times in his story.

When the book came out one critic said it was "horrible and disgusting." Others were shocked that a woman had written it. But *Frankenstein* was extremely popular. It became widely known when it was made into a stage play in 1823. It has inspired many films, TV adaptations and plays since then.

- 1 obsession: thinking of only one thing
- 2 rejected: not accepted
- 3 evil: opposite of good; bad

BEFORE READING

1 What do you know about the novel *Frankenstein*?

Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- T F a The novel is a horror story.
- T F b Frankenstein is the name of the monster.
- T F c The author was a woman.
- T F d The story has a happy ending.
- T F e Part of the story takes place at the North Pole.

2 Match the sentences to the characters. Then listen and check.



- a A science student who creates a monster as an experiment.
- b An explorer who travels to the North Pole on a ship.
- c A girl who grows up with Victor Frankenstein's family.
- d A boy who has blond hair and blue eyes.
- e A very large man, who has superhuman powers.
- f Victor Frankenstein's good friend, who loves anything medieval, especially King Arthur.

3 Look at the picture of Frankenstein and his monster. Read the passage and then answer the questions.

Finally, one dark November night I completed my work. I collected my instruments and gave life to the being that lay at my feet. By the light of the candle, I saw the eyes of the creature open; it breathed hard; then made quick movements of its legs and arms.



How can I describe my emotions when I saw this disaster that with such endless work and care I had tried to create? I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful? Great God! His yellow skin only just covered the muscles and veins beneath; he had shiny black hair; his teeth were pearly white. But these good features only made a more unpleasant contrast with his watery eyes, lined face and straight black lips.

- a When did Frankenstein complete his work?
- b What color was the creature's skin?
- c Did Frankenstein think the monster was beautiful?
- d What were the monster's good features?
- e What were his bad features?
- f Find the words in the text that mean the following.

- 1 tools _____ 3 feelings _____
- 2 wrinkled _____ 4 chosen _____

- g Which of these words does Frankenstein NOT use to describe his creation here? Tick (✓).
- being creature
- disaster monster

4 Look at the names of some of the places mentioned in the story. Discuss with a partner what you know about them. Then look at a world map to see where they are.

North Pole Russia Geneva Ingolstadt London
Perth (Scotland) Orkneys Naples Ireland

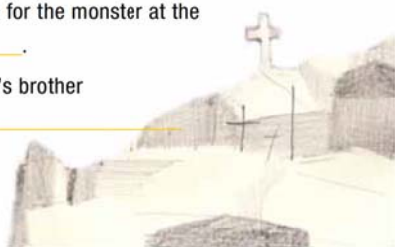
5 Frankenstein gets his parts for the monster from three places. Match the places below with their definitions.

- 1 a room where dead bodies are cut up for scientific study
- 2 a place where dead people are buried
- 3 a place where animals are killed

- a cemetery
- b slaughterhouse
- c dissecting room

6 Complete the sentences with the correct word from Exercise 5.

- a Frankenstein found body parts for the monster in the _____ at his university.
- b He found animal body parts for the monster at the _____.
- c After he died, Frankenstein's brother was buried in the _____ in Geneva.



7 Write the correct words of each sentence, using the words in the box below.

tombs philosophy professors veins physiology
anatomy chemistry decay muscles students

- a Two kinds of people you would find at a university. _____
- b Four names of subjects studied at university. _____
- c Two words for parts of the body. _____
- d One word for small buildings where the dead are buried. _____
- e One word that means breaking down or becoming only bones. _____

8 Choose the best word to complete the sentences.

- a Mr Waldman, the chemistry professor, said that I should study natural _____ and mathematics.
1 muscles 2 philosophy 3 tombs
- b After that, natural philosophy and _____ were my only occupation.
1 muscles 2 professors 3 chemistry
- c My main interest was the living body. I studied physiology and _____.
1 decay 2 tombs 3 anatomy
- d I spent days and nights in _____, watching the decay of human bodies.
1 chemistry 2 physiology 3 tombs
- e The preparation of a body with all its muscles and _____ was extremely difficult.
1 students 2 philosophy 3 veins



Introduction

1 In the year 17—¹, an explorer, Robert Walton, traveled from England to Russia to find a way across the North Pole and into the Pacific Ocean. He wanted to be the first person to travel there by ship. He had been on many dangerous voyages², and studied mathematics, science and medicine. Walton often wrote letters to his sister in England to tell her about his travels. In one particular letter he told her a strange and terrifying story full of horror, agony³ and anguish⁴.

1 17--: exact date not known

2 voyages: long sea journeys

3 agony: pain

4 anguish: worry and sadness

August 5th, 17—

4

My dear sister,

Something strange happened to us this week. Our ship was surrounded by ice and a thick fog. When the fog lifted, in the distance we saw a very large man on a sledge¹ pulled by dogs. He was traveling away from us. This was amazing because we were several hundred kilometers from land and other civilization.

The next morning the ice broke up, and while the sailors were getting ready to sail, they saw another man on a piece of ice! The man was frozen, thin and very tired. We immediately invited him to join our ship, but he said he first wanted to know where the ship was going. We told him we were going to the North Pole and he agreed to join us.

He said he was following someone who had run away from him. I told him about the very large man we had seen the day before. He became excited and asked me lots of questions. Then he told me his story, as a warning² to me and to all men. So now, dear sister, I will tell you the story that the man told me.

Chapter 1

5 My name is Victor Frankenstein and I am from Geneva. My father was a rich businessman and well-known in Switzerland. He married a poor woman, much younger than him. They traveled around Europe a lot and I was born in Naples.

My mother often visited poor people to help them. Once, near Lake Como, she visited a family with five hungry children. One little girl was slim and fair, different from the others. When my mother asked about her, the woman of the house said she was an orphan³ and that her parents had been rich.

My parents agreed to take her and bring her up with their own family. The girl's name was Elizabeth, and she became my best friend. She was interested in poetry and nature, while I studied the physical secrets of the world and how things worked. On the birth of my youngest brother, when I was seven, my parents stopped traveling and returned to Geneva, living in our town house and a country house by the lake.

1 sledge: vehicle for traveling over snow

2 warning: indication of possible danger

3 orphan: child with no living parents





16

寂天文化，版權所有

6 My other close friend was Henry Clerval, the son of a merchant¹. Henry loved anything medieval², especially King Arthur and his knights. He often tried to make us act plays and become characters from the medieval world of chivalry³. Henry was interested in morals⁴ and heroes and he wanted to become one when he grew up. We had a happy childhood. Elizabeth was good and kind and she watched over us with her soft smile and beautiful eyes.

Despite my happy and carefree⁵ childhood I was always eager⁶ to learn about other things. It was the secrets of heaven and earth that I wanted to learn about. When I was thirteen I found a volume of the works of Cornelius Agrippa. This opened up a whole new world for me and I was very happy.

AGRIPPA

- Use the Internet to find out more about Cornelius Agrippa. Discuss your findings in small groups.



- merchant: businessman who sells goods in large quantities
- medieval: of the Middle Ages
- chivalry: the good behavior of knights

- morals: good behavior
- carefree: without worries
- was eager: wanted

17



Chapter 2

7 My father told me not to waste my time reading such books and did not explain anything to me. So I read on alone, following what I read from a child's point of view, not properly understanding but still curious to learn.

This continued until a few years later when I saw the effects of a thunderstorm. A flash of lightning had completely destroyed a tree and a learned¹ guest staying with our family told us all about a theory² he had formed on the subject of electricity and galvanism³. These subjects were new and interesting for me and, pushing my years of studying Agrippa to one side, I immediately threw myself into the study of mathematics and science.

This was perhaps the last time that my "guardian angel" tried to protect me from the storm that even then was waiting to fall on me.

1 learned: clever; knowing lots

2 theory: idea

3 galvanism: movement made by an electric current

4 misfortune: bad luck

5 scarlet fever: an infectious disease

6 in charge of: controlled

7 natural philosophy: the study of nature; an early form of natural science

8 lectures: lessons at university

9 unpleasant: not nice

8 At seventeen, the first misfortune⁴ of my life happened. Elizabeth caught scarlet fever⁵, and my mother looked after her. Soon, Elizabeth was cured, but my mother caught a terrible form of the illness and died. On her deathbed, she said that she hoped Elizabeth and I would marry.

I then left Geneva for the University of Ingolstadt. I was alone for the first time. My life had been extremely limited, and as I traveled, I thought with pleasure about the new knowledge that was waiting for me.

I immediately went to visit the main professors. Chance—or rather the Angel of Destruction, who was now in charge of⁶ my life—led me first to Mr Krempe, professor of natural philosophy⁷. He was horrified that I had studied old writers like Cornelius Agrippa. He said I had completely wasted my time; then he wrote down a list of recent books that I should buy and read. However, I decided not to go to his lectures⁸ because Mr Krempe was an ugly, short, fat man with an unpleasant⁹ voice.