

# Frankenstein

Mary Shelley

LEVEL 3

W O R K B O O K

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# Contents

Introduction .....	4
Before You Read .....	5
 <b>Prologue</b> .....	 7
<b>CHAPTER 1</b> Frankenstein's Childhood .....	9
<b>CHAPTER 2</b> The Monster .....	11
<b>CHAPTER 3</b> The Murder of William .....	13
<b>CHAPTER 4</b> The Trial .....	15
<b>CHAPTER 5</b> The Monster Tells His Story .....	17
<b>CHAPTER 6</b> The Monster Learns .....	19
<b>CHAPTER 7</b> The Monster Tries to Make Friends .....	21
<b>CHAPTER 8</b> The Monster Wants a Wife .....	23
<b>CHAPTER 9</b> A Promise Is Broken .....	25
<b>CHAPTER 10</b> Going Home .....	27
<b>CHAPTER 11</b> The Monster's Revenge .....	29
<b>CHAPTER 12</b> The Monster Returns .....	31
 After You Read .....	 33
Reading Journal .....	34

# Frankenstein's Childhood

## I. Put the sentences in order from 1 (first) to 5 (last).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Frankenstein met Henry Clerval.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frankenstein was born.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frankenstein studied electricity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frankenstein got a sister.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Frankenstein went to Thonon.

## II. Choose the best answer.

1. Where was Frankenstein born?
  - a. Germany
  - b. France
  - c. Naples
  - d. Geneva
  
2. Who was Frankenstein's playmate?
  - a. Elizabeth
  - b. William
  - c. Cornelius
  - d. Caroline
  
3. What did Frankenstein's father say about Agrippa's ideas?
  - a. They were very interesting.
  - b. They were nonsense.
  - c. They were about chemicals.
  - d. They were about electricity.
  
4. What became Frankenstein's new interest?
  - a. Devils
  - b. Chemicals
  - c. Ghosts
  - d. Electricity

### III. Write the correct word in each blank.

cottage	devils	eldest	electricity	inn
government	nonsense	orphan	playmate	poetry

- Victor was born first, so he was the \_\_\_\_\_ child.
- Elizabeth was living with a poor family in a small \_\_\_\_\_.
- She was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ because she didn't have any parents.
- His father was an important worker for the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Elizabeth loved artistic things like art and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Even though they were different, Elizabeth was a good \_\_\_\_\_ for Victor.
- When they went on a trip to Thonon, they stayed at a(n) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Victor's father didn't like what Agrippa wrote; he said the contents of his books were \_\_\_\_\_.
- He was interested in scary things like ghosts and \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was his study of \_\_\_\_\_ that would lead to his destruction.

### IV. Complete the summary by writing the correct phrase in each blank.

- an important Genevese family
- his happy childhood
- that changed his life
- who was not his real sister
- an orphan that his
- in electricity and what
- who became his best friend

The stranger explained that he came from 1\_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ He was brought up with a girl 2\_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_, but 3\_\_\_\_\_ mother had found. He described  
 4\_\_\_\_\_ and how he discovered some books  
 5\_\_\_\_\_. He became very interested in the  
 causes of life and death and especially 6\_\_\_\_\_ it  
 could do. At school, he met Henry Clerval, 7\_\_\_\_\_.  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

# The Monster

## I. Put the sentences in order from 1 (first) to 5 (last).

- \_\_\_\_\_ Victor studied the human body in great detail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Henry came to visit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The creature disappeared.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Victor created a creature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Victor studied with Professor Waldman.

## II. Choose the best answer.

1. Where did Victor spend a lot of time?
  - a. His hometown
  - b. In the laboratory
  - c. In his house
  - d. In his apartment
2. Who took care of Victor when he was ill?
  - a. Elizabeth
  - b. Professor Waldman
  - c. Henry
  - d. Ernest
3. What disgusted Victor about the creature he had created?
  - a. He had black hair.
  - b. He had very white teeth.
  - c. He had yellow skin.
  - d. He had watery eyes.
4. What caused Victor's illness?
  - a. The creature had disappeared.
  - b. His father was upset.
  - c. Elizabeth was sick.
  - d. His brother was joining the army.

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<b>Prologue</b>	5
<b>CHAPTER 1</b> Frankenstein's Childhood	12
<b>CHAPTER 2</b> The Monster	15
<b>CHAPTER 3</b> The Murder of William	19
<b>CHAPTER 4</b> The Trial	23
<b>CHAPTER 5</b> The Monster Tells His Story	26
<b>CHAPTER 6</b> The Monster Learns	31
<b>CHAPTER 7</b> The Monster Tries to Make Friends	35
<b>CHAPTER 8</b> The Monster Wants a Wife	41
<b>CHAPTER 9</b> A Promise is Broken	45
<b>CHAPTER 10</b> Going Home	53
<b>CHAPTER 11</b> The Monster's Revenge	57
<b>CHAPTER 12</b> The Monster Returns	61
<b>New Words</b>	65
<b>Playlet</b>	67

## Frankenstein's Childhood

**Preview Questions**

1. What do you think we shall learn about the stranger's family?
2. In what way do you think Elizabeth is not the stranger's real sister?
3. What do you think the stranger will be most interested in studying?

This is the story the stranger told Walton:

My family name is Frankenstein. I am a Genevese, and my family is one of the most important in that country. My father held many important positions in the government. He did not marry or have a family until he was quite old. The woman he married, Caroline Beaufort, was the daughter of an old friend who had lost all his money. She was much younger than my father. He loved her very much. She was not strong, and he did everything he could to take care of her.

Shortly after their marriage, they went on a journey. From Italy, they visited Germany and France. I, their eldest child, was born in Naples. For several years, I was their only child. They loved me greatly. My mother, however, wanted to have a daughter as well as a son.

One day, when I was about five years old, my mother was walking near Lake Como. She came to a small cottage. A poor family lived in it. There were five young children. One of them looked different from the others. She had golden hair and blue eyes. They all had dark hair and dark



eyes. She was a very pretty child. My mother asked about her. The woman explained that the child was not hers. She was an orphan. Her father had gotten into serious trouble of some kind and had gone to prison in Austria.

My mother took the child and asked my father if he would allow her to live with us. He agreed. The child's name was Elizabeth Lavenza. My mother said, "I am giving you Elizabeth as a present, Victor." She became my **playmate**. There was only a year's difference in our ages. I grew to love her, and I knew that I would love her until I died. I believed that she was mine and only mine. We spent our childhood together. I read widely, wanting to learn about everything. Elizabeth, however, was more interested in art and **poetry** and the beauty of the countryside where we lived.

My parents traveled during the first seven years of my life, but when my mother had a second child, a boy, they stopped traveling. I was sent to school. There, I made friends with a boy of my own age, Henry Clerval. He liked to write plays and songs, act, and sing. He read books about famous men and women of the past. He was very romantic. His interests were nearer to those of Elizabeth than to mine. It was his **ambition** to do well in the world. I was more interested in science and trying to understand the mysteries of life and death. My ambition was to learn as much as I could. Whereas Henry and Elizabeth were both gentle, quiet children, I was often bad-tempered and angry even though I had nothing to be angry about. I had a perfect childhood in every way.

When I was thirteen years of age, we all went on a visit to Thonon. The weather was so bad that we had to stay

indoors in the inn. Looking for something to read, I found a book by Cornelius Agrippa. I was so excited by its contents that I told my father.

“My dear Victor,” he said, “do not waste your time upon nonsense.” If my father had explained then why Agrippa’s ideas were nonsense, I would not have read the book. But he did not, and I read the book with great interest. When we got back home, I bought everything Agrippa had written as well as books by Paracelsus and Albertus Magnus. I became very interested in the search for a chemical that could turn any metal into gold and for whatever it was that gave us life and left us when we died. I was also very interested in ghosts and devils.

When I was about fifteen years old, there was a bad storm. Lightning struck a tree near our house. It turned the tree into thin pieces of wood. It completely destroyed the tree. Until this time I had not studied electricity, but now I lost interest in everything else. My new interest was to lead to my own destruction.

### Review Questions

1. In what way were Henry and Elizabeth’s interests different from Frankenstein’s?
2. Which authors were very important to Frankenstein?
3. What made him especially interested in electricity?