

SUITABLE
FOR
TEACHING
AGES 10-17

CLASSICAL COMICS TEACHING RESOURCE PACK

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Making the classics accessible for teachers and students

Written by: Neil Bowen



Frankenstein

TEACHING RESOURCE SAMPLE PAGES
(WEBSITE DOWNLOAD)

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Frankenstein Sample Pages

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SCIENCE FICTION OR SCIENCE FACT?

Another interesting interpretation connects the novel to when and where it was written. Crucial to your understanding of this period is a little information about one of the most bloody and significant events in European history.

THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

In 1789 a people's revolution broke out in France sweeping before it the old order of the aristocratic ruling classes and their King, Louis XVI. You may have heard of his sensitive wife, Marie Antoinette, who when told that the starving masses had no bread to eat, famously said, "well let them eat cake!". By 1792 the King was in jail and a new Republican government in place. Their slogan, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" seemed to ring out across Europe, a symbol of a new more hopeful, fairer world.

Initially, in England, radical writers and thinkers, such as Mary's father, William Godwin celebrated the overthrow of oppression and the freeing of the French people. The romantic poet, William Wordsworth wrote, "Bliss was it then to be alive. To be young was a very heaven". Attitudes changed, however, when the glorious revolution turned to nightmare.

THE GUILLOTINE AND THE TERROR

During the September Massacres of 1792 approximately 1400 men and women were slaughtered by revolutionaries in Paris alone, with similar massacres taking place in many other French cities. In 1793 Louis XVI was executed, beheaded by the infamous guillotine.

That year Maximilien Robespierre became France's leader and things just kept getting worse. What followed was an extraordinary period of violent bloodshed, with anyone who disagreed with the new government carted off to the guillotine to be beheaded. This period is known simply as "The Terror".



HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO *FRANKENSTEIN*?

The contemporary politician, Edmund Burke, memorably said that "out of the tomb of the murdered monarchy in France has arisen a vast, tremendous, deformed spectre".

Shelley's novel can thus be read as a "Gothicised" story of the French Revolution. For example Victor Frankenstein's idealism, his desire to create a new, better race of men could represent the idealism of the French Revolutionaries who wanted to make a better, fairer society.

TASK 1:

Looking at Mary Shelley's life, what do you think the monster might represent?

TASK 2:

What happened in the year 1816 that may have influenced the story?

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

MISSING WORDS


1. *Frankenstein* is a novel.
2. In Ingolstadt, Victor sets out to discover the of life.
3. Frankenstein's best friend is called
4. is blamed for the murder of William Frankenstein.
5. *Frankenstein* was written by Shelley in 18..
6. Walton is on an expedition to the to try to discover the secret of
7. When Frankenstein leaves the Orkney Island he is washed ashore in
8. The mountain range near Frankenstein's home in Geneva is called
9. When the monster threatens Frankenstein, it says it will be with Victor on his
10. Henry Clerval dies by being



CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING 3

TASK:

Below is a brief summary of Mary Shelley's novel. Unfortunately the order has been scrambled. Your task is to cut out the different phrases and rearrange the summary back into the correct order.



Frankenstein marries the lovely Elizabeth, but she is murdered by the monster on their wedding night.

The monster explains how it learnt to speak and read, and how it has suffered at the hands of man.

It admits killing William.

Frankenstein tells Walton about his family and his studies at the university in Ingolstadt.

Frankenstein pursues the monster to the North Pole in order to destroy it.

Meeting with the monster Frankenstein is made to hear the story of its life since he abandoned it.

Walton writes letters home telling of his meeting with Frankenstein.

In particular Frankenstein explains how he created his monster and then abandoned it.

Walton discovers the monster in the cabin where Frankenstein has died. It tells him it is going to kill itself. The monster leaps out of the window and is gone.

The monster promises to stop haunting Frankenstein, if he will build it a mate.

Having agreed to make a female monster, Frankenstein is suddenly revolted by his work and destroys it. The monster vows revenge.

Frankenstein hears that his brother, William, has been murdered.

FRANKENSTEIN WORD SEARCH

Some of the following words appear more than once. How many times does each word appear?

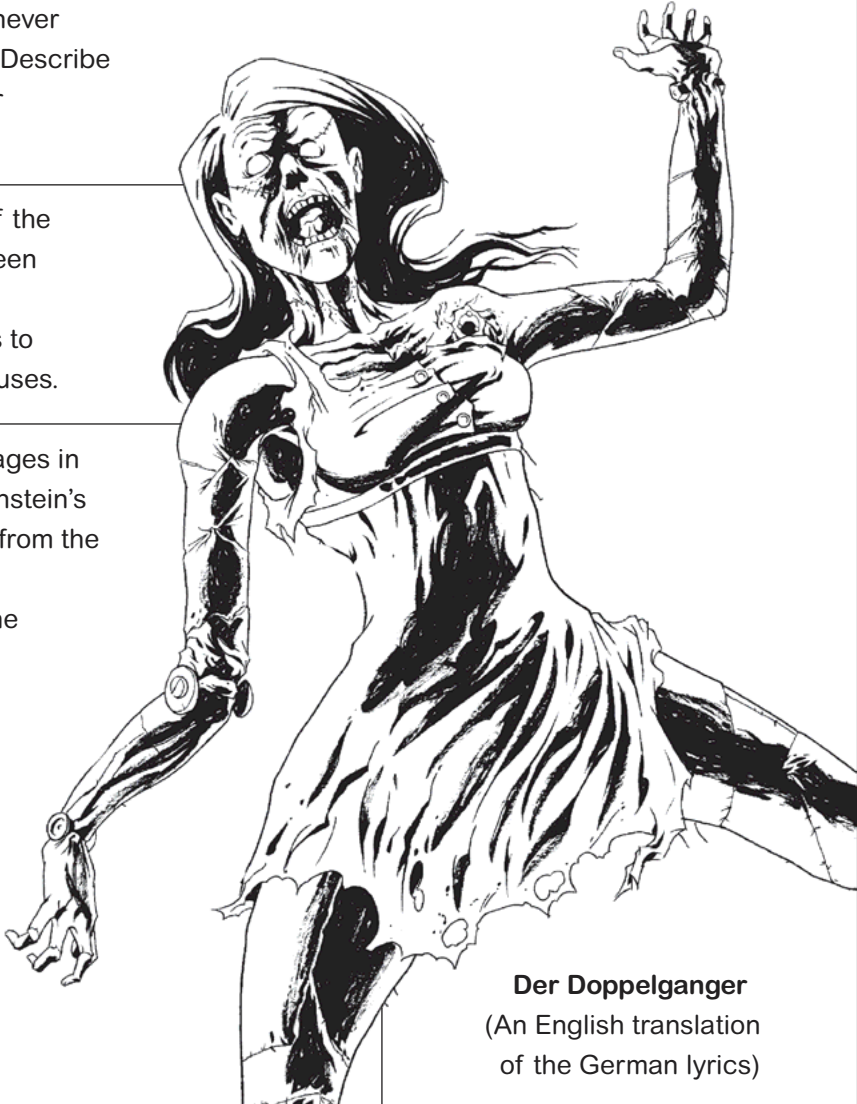
VICTOR
FRANKENSTEIN
NOVEL
NIGHTMARE
GENEVA

GOTHIC
MONSTER
STUDENT
SHELLEY
WALTON

SCIENTIST
BYRON
NORTH POLE
THE CREATURE
WOLLSTONECRAFT

C N M E R A M T H G I N S S H E L L E Y
 N Y N S N O M N I E T S N E K N A R F N
 I E A N O R T H P O L E N O R Y B T S I
 E L W T R O C I V E R A M T H G I N C E
 T L A O Y B Y R O N C T N E D U T S I E
 S E L V B N O V O L G T S B Y R O N E S
 N H T I E T R E T S N O M H T O N R N O
 E S O V C N O N O V E L T F E O C O T O
 K T N I E R E T N O M C A H T L T S I T
 N H V C C E T G L C I R N L I L L T S E
 A E C T I T E H I H C G A R A C O E T E
 R C A O H S N H T E S W O W E N O R Y B
 F R H R T N T O N I G H T M A R E S N V
 T E O L O O G O B Y R C I H T O G O R L
 V A C T G M T S C I E N T I S T T E O L
 I T I V C S N O R T H P O L E L T N T I
 C U H H L I S S H E L L E Y A S H O C A
 T R T L A V V E N E G V A W N I R R I R
 O E O B Y R O N O R O B R O N N M Y V C
 R W G T G R L E H N T T M T T G R B E O

CREATIVE RESPONSES

<p>1. Re-write chapter three, volume 3 <i>"I tore to pieces the thing on which I had been engaged"</i> from the point of view of the monster.</p>	
<p>2. Imagine Frankenstein completed the female monster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now imagine this creature "waking-up" for the first time in Frankenstein's laboratory. Using either first person narration (from the point of view of the female monster) or third person, write this scene. • The female monster is never described in the novel. Describe what it looks like and/or draw a picture of it. 	
<p>3. Imagine you are a member of the Ingolstadt police and have been spying on Frankenstein. Write a report about his visits to graveyards and slaughter houses.</p>	
<p>4. One of the most powerful images in the novel comes from Frankenstein's uneasy dream, after he flees from the monster. This dream features Elizabeth transforming into the corpse of Victor's mother.</p> <p>Find two images from magazines, one of something or someone glamorous and beautiful, the other of something or someone ugly. Using the images as a stimulus, write a transformation scene.</p>	<p>Der Doppelganger (An English translation of the German lyrics)</p>
<p>5. If you are allowed, watch all of Branagh's film of the novel. Apart from those mentioned already in this pack, how is the film different from the novel? Why do you think the director made some of these changes?</p>	<p>Still is the night, it quiets the streets down In that window my love would appear She's long since gone away from this town But this house where she lived still remains here.</p> <p>A man stands here too, staring up into space And wrings his hands with the strength of his pain It chills me, when I behold his pale face For the moon shows me my own features again!</p>
<p>6. Listen to "Der Doppelganger" by the Austrian composer Schubert. Now look up the word "doppelganger". Can you relate this word and Schubert's song to Mary Shelley's novel? If so, how?</p>	<p>You spirit double, you specter with my face Why do you mock my love-pain so That tortured me here, here in this place So many nights, so long ago?</p>

COLOUR ME IN 2



CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING 1

TEACHERS' VERSION

ANSWER: (PAGE 41)

The answers are in **bold** below.

1. *Frankenstein* is a **gothic** novel.
2. In Ingolstadt, Victor sets out to discover the **elixir** of life.
3. Frankenstein's best friend is called **Henry Clerval**.
4. **Justine** is blamed for the murder of William Frankenstein.
5. *Frankenstein* was written by **Mary** Shelley in **1818**.
6. Walton is on an expedition to the **North Pole** to try to discover the secret of **magnetism**.
7. When Frankenstein leaves the Orkney Island he is washed ashore in **Ireland**.
8. The mountain range near Frankenstein's home in Geneva is called **The Alps**.
9. When the monster threatens Frankenstein, it says it will be with Victor on his **wedding night**.
10. Henry Clerval dies by being **strangled**.



CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING 3

TEACHERS' VERSION

TASK: (PAGE 45)

ANSWER: The correct sequence for the summary of the novel is:

Walton writes letters home telling of his meeting with Frankenstein.

Frankenstein tells Walton about his family and his studies at the university in Ingolstadt.

In particular Frankenstein explains how he created his monster and then abandoned it.

Frankenstein hears that his brother, William, has been murdered.

Meeting with the monster, Frankenstein is made to hear the story of its life since he abandoned it.

The monster explains how it learnt to speak and read, and how it has suffered at the hands of man. It admits killing William.

The monster promises to stop haunting Frankenstein, if he will build it a mate.

Having agreed to make a female monster, Frankenstein is suddenly revolted by his work and destroys it. The monster vows revenge.

Frankenstein marries the lovely Elizabeth, but she is murdered by the monster on their wedding night.

Frankenstein pursues the monster to the North Pole in order to destroy it.

Walton discovers the monster in the cabin where Frankenstein has died. It tells him it is going to kill itself. The monster leaps out of the window and is gone.

FRANKENSTEIN WORD SEARCH 1

TEACHERS' VERSION

SOLUTION: (PAGE 67)

VICTOR (5)
 FRANKENSTEIN (2)
 NOVEL (2)
 NIGHTMARE (3)
 GENEVA (1)

GOTHIC (6)
 MONSTER (3)
 STUDENT (1)
 SHELLEY (4)
 WALTON (4)

SCIENTIST (2)
 BYRON (7)
 NORTH POLE
 THE CREATURE
 WOLLSTONECRAFT (1)

