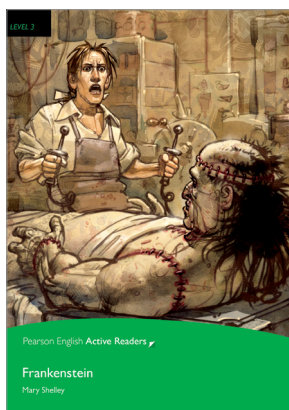


Frankenstein

Mary Shelley



About the author

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was born in London in 1797 and died in 1851. She was the daughter of William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, two great intellectual rebels of the time. Eleven days after her birth, her mother died leaving her father to look after Mary and her sister. Mary developed an intense affection for her father and he for her, but things became tense when Godwin remarried as Mary and her stepmother did not have a good relationship. Mary never had a formal education but learned from the books that she found in her father's library.

In 1814 she met the young poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and went with him to France. They married in 1816, after Shelley's first wife killed herself. They had a happy but short marriage, and on her husband's death in 1822, she returned to England with her son, Percy. There she published many of his poetry and prose works, adding to these her own notes.

Mary had been interested in writing herself from an early age. By the time she was nineteen, she had written *Frankenstein* (1818), one of the most famous novels ever published. She also wrote several other novels, including *Valpurga* (1823), *The Fortunes of Perkin Warbeck* (1834) and what is often considered her best work *The Last Man* (1833). She also wrote a travel book *History of a Six Weeks' Tour* (1817), which is about her trip around Europe in 1814 with her future husband.

Summary

Young Victor Frankenstein comes from a caring family. His adopted sister, Elizabeth, loves him and he has a good friend called Henry. He is intelligent and deeply interested

in science. At university he learns how to create life from human body parts but, at the moment of his triumph, he realises he has created a monster. The monster wants to be loved but Victor rejects him and the monster escapes from Victor's laboratory. In his anger and frustration, the monster first kills Victor's brother, William, but then comes to believe that he will be happy if he has a mate. He asks Victor to make him a female companion, promising to leave the country and commit no more evil in return. Victor agrees but later has doubts and destroys the female. The monster wants revenge and goes on to kill Henry and finally Elizabeth on the night she marries Victor. Victor pursues the monster across the North Pole and eventually dies. The monster, saddened by the death, vows to kill no more.

Chapters 1–2: Victor's family adopt a young girl called Elizabeth and they move to Geneva. Two more sons are born, Ernest, the oldest and later William. Victor makes friends with a boy called Henry Clerval. Victor is very interested in electricity and chemistry and goes to Ingolstadt University to study. He becomes obsessed with creating life and puts together a human form from parts of dead bodies. The monster comes to life. It opens its eyes and makes sounds. This distresses Victor and he falls very ill. His friend, Henry, nurses him back to health.

Chapters 3–4: Victor receives a letter telling him his brother, William, has been murdered. He is very sad and travels to Geneva. On the way, he briefly sees the monster in a forest. Justine Moritz, a servant to the Frankenstein family, is arrested and executed for the murder. Victor is terribly unhappy because he knows who the real murderer is. He travels to the mountains where he meets the monster again. He threatens to destroy the monster. The monster replies that Victor is responsible for everything because he created him and now his life is miserable because people are unkind.

Chapters 5–6: The monster tells Victor his story. After leaving the laboratory, he lived in a small hut next to the de Lacey's house. The monster watched the family and secretly helped them by collecting wood. But one day, the children saw the monster with their blind father and they screamed and attacked him. They left their house in fear. The monster was lonely, unhappy and he wanted revenge. He burned the de Lacey's house down and went to look for Victor. Instead, he found his brother, William, and killed him. The monster now wants a female companion and Victor agrees to create one.

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Chapters 7–8: Victor tells his father that he wants to marry Elizabeth but first he must travel and study. His friend, Henry, joins him and they travel to London. Victor learns a lot from the scientists there and collects the things he needs for the female monster. He then goes on his own to the north of Scotland. One night, as the monster looks in through the window, Victor destroys the female. The monster is very angry and threatens revenge. Victor takes a boat. He falls asleep and arrives in Ireland. There, someone tells him that a dead body has been found and Victor is arrested for murder.

Chapters 9–10: Victor is taken to see Mr Kirwin, the local judge and he discovers that the dead man is his friend, Henry Clerval. Victor is very distressed and spends the next two months very ill in prison. His father goes to see him and a month later Victor is found not guilty of Henry's murder. Father and son start the journey back to Switzerland but stop to rest in Paris. A letter from Elizabeth arrives. She tells Victor that she loves him and wants to marry him. Victor decides they must marry very soon before the monster takes his revenge.

Chapters 11–12: Victor and Elizabeth get married and start their holiday in a hotel. That night Elizabeth is murdered in her room. Victor sees the monster through an open window and chases him. The monster escapes. Victor follows the monster to the North Pole. He becomes very ill and is rescued by Walton, the captain of a boat. As he lies dying, he tells Walton his story and asks him to promise to destroy the monster when he is dead. Victor dies. The monster approaches the lifeless Victor and begs forgiveness. When he realises Victor is dead, the monster decides that he must die too and jumps into the water and disappears.

Background and themes

Mary Shelly was greatly influenced by the Romantic Movement and she wrote *Frankenstein* after Lord Byron introduced a challenge to discern who among the three writers, Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley and Byron himself, could write the best ghost story. Her work was greatly influenced by the mass production and dehumanization of the Industrial Revolution, which posed a threat to the Romantic ideals of the importance of the individual, the beauty of nature, and the emotional and free spirit. *Frankenstein* can be seen as a protest against this scientific revolution.

Love and friendship: Victor had two very close friends, Elizabeth and Henry. Their personalities complemented his own. Victor was the scientific, mechanical part, while Henry was the literary part and Elizabeth was the soothing, gentle, feminine influence that balanced out the literary and scientific passion. The monster explained to Victor that he had no friends and was lonely and his quest in life was for companionship and understanding. It was his loneliness and rejection by humans and Victor himself that made him savage. He had no one to comfort him, support him or love him, and he felt that absence strongly. Loneliness recurs as a theme throughout the monster's existence.

Science and nature: The theme of scientific intervention in nature is key to this novel. At the time it was written, scientific development in England was becoming of great importance and was beginning to influence every aspect of human life. Shelley portrays the natural environment that surrounds us, the lakes, the mountains and the forests, as both beautiful and consoling whereas when scientists interfere with nature, a hideous monster is created. Whether Shelley intended it or not, her message is of great importance today in serving as a warning of the disastrous consequences that genetic engineering may have if not accompanied by moral and ethical responsibility.

Judging by appearances: Another theme is the human tendency to judge a person based on his or her appearance. It is true that the monster appears horrifying, but he is also shown to be more humane than some of the other humans in the story. Indeed, he is at first quite sensitive and tolerant. Unfortunately, no one tries to understand him or to accept him the way he is or see the inner beauty that exists.

Discussion activities

Chapters 1–2

Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about horror stories. *Do you like horror stories? What makes them frightening? Do they sometimes have a message? What was the last horror film you saw? Did you like it?*

While reading (At the end of p. 2)

- Guess:** Ask students why they think the man that Walton found wants to go to the North Pole.

After reading

- Pair work:** Ask students to talk about whether they think Frankenstein should have created the monster or not.

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Do you think it is all right for scientists to do all kinds of experiments? What kind of experiments do you think could be bad? Do you think it was a good idea for Frankenstein to create the monster?

Chapters 3–4

Before reading

4 Pair work: Ask students to talk about the monster Frankenstein has created.

What does he look like? How do you think he felt when he came alive? Can he talk and think? What problems will he have now that he has run away?

After reading

5 Role play: Put students in groups of four to write and act out Justine's trial. One student is Justine, one is the prosecutor, one is Frankenstein (defending Justine) and one is the judge (who decides Justine is guilty and sentences her).

Chapters 5–6

Before reading

6 Guess: Ask the students to imagine in small groups what has happened to the monster since he left Frankenstein's laboratory.

What do you think happened to the monster after he left Frankenstein's laboratory? Where did he live? What did he eat? Did he meet any people? Why did he kill William?

After reading

7 Role play: Put students in pairs. Ask them to act out the final conversation between Frankenstein and the monster.

Student A: You are the monster. Tell Frankenstein you want a wife and why. Promise you will leave the country and never hurt anybody again.

Student B: You are Frankenstein. Tell the monster you don't want to create a female monster and why. Agree to make another monster in the end, but make the monster promise to go away and hurt no more people.

Chapters 7–8

Before reading

8 Discuss: Ask the students to discuss the possible reasons why Frankenstein is going to England. *Is Frankenstein trying to escape from the monster? Does he need to talk to someone important there? Is there something he needs in London to make the other monster? Will he go alone?*

After reading

9 Role play: Tell the students to imagine that Frankenstein didn't destroy the female monster. Student A is the monster and Student B is the female monster.

What do they say to each other? Does the monster like the female? Does she like him? What does the monster say about Frankenstein?

Chapters 9–10

After reading

10 Write: Students work individually. Ask the students to imagine they are Frankenstein. They have to write a reply to Elizabeth's letter.

The letter should talk about what happened in Ireland. Describe the prison, the trial and how you felt about the death of your friend. Also say you are afraid of the wedding night.

Chapters 11–12

While reading

11 Role play: Put the students into pairs. Refer to page 63, penultimate line 'Elizabeth left me and went to the bedroom.'

Students imagine there was a conversation between Elizabeth and the monster before he killed her.
Student A: You are the monster. Tell Elizabeth that Frankenstein created you. Tell her that he destroyed your female companion and that you are going to kill her.
Student B: You are Elizabeth. Tell the monster that he shouldn't kill you and that you will help him.

After reading

12 Research: Put students in groups to do some research about a novel or a film in which a monster is the central character. Each group can then do an oral presentation for the rest of the class or a wall display with texts and illustrations.

You can get information from the Internet or books. Describe the monster, explain what the monster does, its reasons for doing evil things and whether you think it is 100% bad or that there is some good in the monster. Some possible choices are vampires, zombies, bogeymen, ghosts etc.

Frankenstein

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While reading

Chapters 1–2

1 Match the name and the description.

Robert Walton Elizabeth Mrs Frankenstein
Mr Waldman Victor Frankenstein
Henry Clerval

- a went to live with the Frankenstein family because both her parents died.
- b was the son of a businessman from Geneva and Frankenstein's closest friend.
- c wanted to find out about the secrets of the world and went to study science at university.
- d wanted Elizabeth to look after her younger children after her death.
- e doesn't want to return home to England until he has found the North Pole.
- f showed Victor Frankenstein his laboratory and his experiments.

2 Underline the wrong word and put the right one.

- a The Frankenstein family had a town house at Belrive.
- b Frankenstein thought that history was the most interesting subject.
- c Mr Waldman was a terrible teacher.
- d Henry Clerval wanted to study chemistry at Ingoldstadt University too.
- e Frankenstein studied the bodies of dead animals.
- f After creating the monster, Frankenstein was ill for a short time.

Chapters 3–4

3 Complete the sentences with the right word.

punishment arrested misery lightning
glacier guilty

- a The police Justine Moritz for William's murder.
- b Elizabeth believed that Justine was not of the murder.
- c Frankenstein saw the monster clearly when the lit up the sky.

- d Frankenstein spent two hours crossing a in the mountains near Chamonix.
- e The court decided that Justine's was death.
- f The monster told Frankenstein about his

4 Answer the questions.

- a How did Frankenstein find out about his brother's death?
.....
- b What did William have in his pocket when he was murdered?
.....
- c Who did Frankenstein see behind a tree near lake Geneva?
.....
- d Who defended Justine at the trial?
.....
- e What did Frankenstein want to do to the monster after William's death?
.....
- f What did the monster think about people?
.....

Chapters 5–6

5 Match the words with the opposites.

cruel	soft
ugly	kind
evil	wet
light	good
dry	handsome
hard	dark

6 Finish the sentences.

- a When Frankenstein heard the monster's words he felt.....
- b When the monster arrived in a village, the children ran away and the men
.....
- c Every day, Felix de Lacey went to the forest to
.....
- d When Felix saw the monster with Mr de Lacey, he
- e The monster wanted Frankenstein to
.....

Chapters 7–8

7 Put the underlined letters in the right order to make a word.

Frankenstein

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- a Frankenstein thought that Elizabeth was the oievltsle woman he knew.
- b Frankenstein and Clerval thought that London was a fwunoredl place.
- c The monster said he would be with Frankenstein on his nedigwd night.
- d Frankenstein went to England to do some more pxesternime
- e Frankenstein couldn't enjoy his holiday with Henry because he thought about the rrrhoo of the monster and the work he had to do.
- f The monster wanted gerneve when Frankenstein destroyed the female monster.

8 Are these sentences right (✓), wrong (X) or it doesn't say (?).

- a Frankenstein was happy about the promise he made to the monster.
- b Frankenstein's father thought that marriage between Victor and Elizabeth was a bad idea.
- c Henry knew that Frankenstein was very worried when they were in London.
- d Frankenstein wanted to meet lots of people in Scotland.
- e Frankenstein still loves his laboratory and his chemistry equipment.
- f When Frankenstein arrives in Ireland, the people are very rude to him.

Chapters 9–10

9 Write questions for these answers.

- a Where
On the beach.
- b Who
The local judge.
- c What
He threw himself on the body and cried.
- d Why
Because they needed to rest.
- e When
The day after his marriage.

10 Find words in Chapters 9 and 10 for the following definitions.

- a Moving your body because you are cold or afraid. (p. 55)

- b An unhappy feeling. (p. 56)
- c The thing that happens in court to decide if somebody is guilty. (p. 56)
- d To decide if you want one thing or another. (p. 57)
- e To say that you will surely do something. (p. 58)

Chapters 11–12

11 Circle the extra word in the sentences.

- a Elizabeth and Frankenstein planned to have having a quiet holiday.
- b At the beginning of their journey, Frankenstein and Elizabeth enjoyed with the beautiful country.
- c Frankenstein could not run away of from the monster.
- d Elizabeth's skin was cold and she hasn't wasn't breathing.
- e Frankenstein was not strong enough to get in out of bed.

12 Write the names next to the sentences.

- Mr Walton Elizabeth Frankenstein
The monster Frankenstein's father
The people at the hotel
- a 'I think my son is very happy now he is marrying Elizabeth.'
 - b 'I'm going to carry a gun to protect myself.'
 - c 'I know my husband is afraid of something.'
 - d 'We haven't seen a monster. Frankenstein is imagining it.'
 - e 'This man's story is the saddest and most frightening I've ever heard.'
 - f 'I must go and die in the ice.'

After reading

13 Imagine that the monster doesn't die and decides to be better in the future. Write about where he goes and what happens to him.

14 Find or draw a map of Europe and the North Pole. Draw symbols on the map to show where the important things happened to Frankenstein. Where did he live and study? Where did he travel with Henry? Where did he begin to create the female monster? Where did he go when he was chasing the monster?

Frankenstein

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1 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?

- a Robert Walton first met Frankenstein on his journey to the North Pole.
- b Frankenstein was often sad when he was a child.
- c Frankenstein created the monster when he was at university.
- d The first person the monster killed was Frankenstein's younger brother.
- e Frankenstein began to understand the monster when he heard his story.
- f The monster never learned to read and write.
- g The monster wanted a wife so that she could do evil things with him.
- h In Ireland the people believed that Frankenstein was a murderer at first.
- i Frankenstein's father believed everything he told him about the monster.
- j Elizabeth died the day before she married Frankenstein.

2 What happened first? Write 1–10.

- a Frankenstein and his father travel back to Geneva.
- b Frankenstein destroys the female monster.
- c Frankenstein meets Henry Clerval.
- d Frankenstein creates the monster.
- e The monster kills Elizabeth.
- f Justine Moritz is found guilty of murder.
- g Frankenstein and Clerval travel across Europe.
- h Clerval is murdered.
- i Elizabeth marries Frankenstein.
- j William is murdered.

3 Write the words to finish the sentences.

hut marks created suffered grateful lightning
responsible breathe arrested journey

- a Frankenstein saw during a storm and never forgot its power.
- b Frankenstein's problems began when he a monster.
- c The police Justine after William's death.
- d Frankenstein felt he was for the death of Justine and William.
- e The people the monster killed had black on their necks.
- f Frankenstein knew the monster had come to life when he began to
- g Frankenstein and Clerval went on a across Europe.
- h The de Lacey family were when the monster helped them.

- i The monster lived in a small next to the de Lacey family's house.
- j Both Frankenstein and the monster because of the horrible things that happened.

4 Write the names to finish the sentences.

Frankenstein The monster Elizabeth
Henry Clerval Frankenstein's father
Frankenstein's mother Robert Walton
Felix de Lacey Mr Kirwin Mr Waldman

- a was killed in a hotel bedroom.
- b taught Frankenstein about a growing area of science.
- c felt misery because people were unkind to him.
- d died of a broken heart in Frankenstein's arms.
- e decided to take his father and sister away to escape the danger.
- f wrote to Frankenstein's father and asked him to go to Ireland.
- g saw the monster jump into the sea and disappear.
- h looked after Frankenstein when he was ill at university.
- i told his terrible story on a boat just before he died.
- j 's face was on the picture in Justine Moritz's pocket.

5 Circle the right words.

- a Elizabeth was beautiful and very *kind* / *cruel*.
- b Frankenstein worked very *little* / *hard* when he was creating the monster.
- c Elizabeth thought that Justine was *innocent* / *guilty*.
- d The monster *hated* / *enjoyed* his simple life living next to the de Laceys.
- e At first, the monster didn't want to *talk to* / *hurt* William.
- f At first, Frankenstein *refused* / *agreed* to create a female monster.
- g Frankenstein threw the half-finished female monster in the *sea* / *lake*.
- h Frankenstein wanted to tell Elizabeth his secret the day *before* / *after* the wedding.
- i Frankenstein heard Elizabeth *scream* / *shout* from the bedroom.
- j In the end, Frankenstein thought that death would be *horrible* / *welcome*.

Frankenstein

Book key

- 1.1 1 Picture A is (Victor) Frankenstein. (B is the monster, who does not have a name. C is Dracula, a different monster.)
2 Open answers
- 1.2 1 Open answers
2 Open answers (On page 2 Victor is much older. He is ill and wild, long-haired and frightened. On page 4 he is much younger and better-dressed. On page 2 he is on a ship near the North Pole. On page 4 he is near a big house in a beautiful country with mountains and lakes (Switzerland).)
- 2.1 1 The North Pole 2 Belrive
- 2.2 1 a Elizabeth b William c Henry Clerval d Mr Waldman
2 b experiment, two, night, alive, secret, parts/pieces, laboratory, joined, breathe, eyes, arms, monster, made/created
- 2.3 1 ... where life came from.
2 ... what happened to a body after death.
3 ... how bodies were made.
4 ... how I could create life.
5 ... where I could find body parts.
6 ... what my creation would look like.
- 2.4 Open answers (1 brother 2 killed/murdered 3 Geneva/Switzerland 4 monster)
- 3.1 1 X 2 ✓ 3 X 4 X
- 3.2 1 William 2 Thursday 3 mother 4 pocket
5 many years 6 unhappy 7 death
- 3.3 1 Busy with his experiments, he forgot to eat and drink.
2 Afraid of the monster, he ran out of his laboratory.
3 Weak after his illness, he spent weeks in bed.
4 Crazy with misery, he travelled into the mountains.
5 Angry and afraid, he didn't want to listen to the monster.
- 3.4 Open answers
(1 Everybody is afraid of him, hates him, runs away from him.
2 He is looking for a friend, love, another monster, understanding.
3 Victor feels sorry, afraid, responsible, angry.)
- 4.1 1 ✓ 2 ✓ 3 X 4 X 5 ✓ 6 ✓ 7 X
- 4.2 1 Felix (de Lacey) 2 Mr de Lacey
3 Agatha (de Lacey) 4 the monster
5 Victor (Frankenstein)
- 4.3 1 The villagers' food is stolen (by the monster).
2 The de Laceys are helped in many ways (by the monster).
3 Their wood is cut.
4 The snow is swept from their path.
5 They are watched all the time.
6 Finally, the monster is hit by Felix and sent away.
- 4.4 Open answers
(1 The monster – No 2 Victor – No)
- 5.1 1 ... until he has made a female monster.
2 ... to talk to scientists there.
3 ... to get far away from people.
4 ... but he destroys it.
- 5.2 a 1 b 5 c 10 d 7 e 6 f 4 g 8 h 3
i 9 j 2
- 5.3 1 Victor thought about the work that he had to do.
2 He and Henry passed through some famous places that they knew about from books.
3 Henry is an old friend who/that Victor has known for many years.
4 Victor found a place in the Orkneys where he could finish his work.
5 He has created a monster who/that enjoys death and misery.
6 Victor found the body parts that he needed.
- 5.4 Open answers (1 Henry Clerval 2 The monster 3 Terrible, ill, crazy, sorry, guilty. 4 No.)
- 6.1 1 Henry Clerval 2 months 3 father
4 the monster
- 6.2 1 (Elizabeth) A 2 (Victor) B 3 (Mr Kirwin) C
4 (Victor's father) A
- 6.3 1 has murdered 2 have broken 3 have destroyed
4 have thrown 5 has made 6 has promised
7 have seen
- 6.4 Open answers (1 Yes 2 No 3 Yes (Elizabeth) 4 No, and no)
- Talk about it** Open answers
- Write about it** Open answers
- Project** 1 head X face ✓ brain X heart ✓ lungs ✓
liver ✓ kidneys ✓ stomach X
- 2 a South Africa
b He was the first doctor to put a heart from one person into the body of another person successfully.
c 1967
d The man who was given the new heart.
- 3–5 Open answers

Frankenstein

Discussion activities key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 Suggested answers: Walton could think that Frankenstein wants to go to the North Pole because somebody he knows is already there, because he wants to discover it, because he is crazy, or because he wants to kill himself.
- 3 Open answers
- 4 Suggested answers: The monster is big, ugly and has black hair, yellow skin and white teeth. He may have felt afraid, confused or excited when he came alive. He may have physical or emotional problems and problems doing everyday things that normal humans do.
- 5 Open answers
- 6 Suggested answers: The monster may have met some people or he may have lived alone. He may even have died. He could have stolen food or eaten things from the forest or countryside. He could have slept in a cave, in the forest or found an abandoned house. He killed William because he was angry with Frankenstein.
- 7 Open answers
- 8 Frankenstein is going to London to learn more about science and collect things so that he can make a new monster.
- 9 Open answers
- 10 The prison was probably dark and dirty and the trial was probably very frightening. Frankenstein was extremely sad about Henry's death and probably felt guilty too.
- 11–12 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

- 1 a Elizabeth
b Henry Clerval
c Victor Frankenstein
d Mrs Frankenstein
e Robert Walton
f Mr Waldman
- 2 a town > country
b history > science
c a terrible > an excellent
d chemistry > languages
e animals > people
f short > long
- 3 a arrested b guilty c lightning d glacier
e punishment f misery

- 4 a His father sent him a letter.
b A picture of his mother.
c The monster.
d Frankenstein and Elizabeth.
e Destroy him.
f That they were cruel.
- 5 cruel–kind
ugly–handsome
evil–good
light–dark
dry–wet
hard–soft
- 6 a kinder towards him.
b attacked him.
c cut wood.
d hit the monster.
e create another monster.
- 7 a loveliest b wonderful c wedding
d experiments e horror f revenge
- 8 a ~~X~~ b ~~X~~ c ? d ~~X~~ e ~~X~~ f ✓
- 9 a was Henry Clerval's body found?
b was Mr Kirwin?
c did Frankenstein do when he saw the body?
d did Frankenstein and his father stay in Paris?
e did Frankenstein plan to tell Elizabeth about the monster?
- 10 a shaking b sadness c trial d choose
e promise
- 11 a having b with c of d hasn't e in
- 12 a Frankenstein's father b Frankenstein
c Elizabeth d The people at the hotel
e Mr Walton f The monster
- 13–14 Open answers

Progress test key

- 1 a ✓ b ~~X~~ c ✓ d ✓ e ✓ f ~~X~~ g ~~X~~ h ✓
i ~~X~~ j ~~X~~
- 2 a 8 b 6 c 1 d 2 e 10 f 4 g 5 h 7
i 9 j 3
- 3 a lightning b created c arrested d responsible
e marks f breathe g journey h grateful i hut
j suffered
- 4 a Elizabeth b Mr Waldman c The monster
d Frankenstein's father e Felix de Lacey
f Mr Kirwin g Robert Walton h Henry Clerval
i Frankenstein j Frankenstein's mother
- 5 a kind b hard c innocent d enjoyed e hurt
f refused g sea h after i scream j welcome