

FRANKENSTEIN

1º & 2º SECONDARY EDUCATION



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SESSION 1: **SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS**

Activity 1. Synopsis



Before you read the synopsis of the play, match the correct word to the correct definition. Two of the words have the same definition.

WORDS	DEFINITIONS
1. CORPSES	<input type="radio"/> to do something unintentionally
2. CEMETERY	<input type="radio"/> a woman who is going to get married
3. GROTESQUE-LOOKING	<input type="radio"/> dead bodies
4. HIDEOUS	<input type="radio"/> extremely scared
5. TERRIFIED	<input type="radio"/> problem
6. ACCIDENTALLY	<input type="radio"/> very ugly
7. WIFE-TO-BE	<input type="radio"/> a place where dead people are buried
8. A CATCH	



SESSION 1: **SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS**



• Synopsis

The play begins in the 18th century, when Victor Frankenstein, a passionate and eccentric scientist, defies the laws of life and death. In the shadows of his laboratory, using materials collected from the cemetery, Victor brings a creature to life that soon becomes his worst nightmare. Although he initially celebrates his success, reality turns darker when the grotesque being, rejected for its appearance, begins a desperate search for its place in the world.

The monster, filled with resentment over being abandoned by its creator and rejected by humanity, demands that Victor build him a companion to ease the loneliness consuming him. But the tragedies don't stop: his demand becomes a direct threat to those Victor loves most. Amid betrayals, deaths, and moral dilemmas, the scientist confronts the consequences of his actions, while the creature seeks vengeance and justice in a duel that drags them both toward ruin.

What is the price of playing God? Is the creator the real monster, or is it the creation? Between love, loneliness, and obsession, Frankenstein leaves us with a question that continues to resonate through time.



Can you use the high-lighted words from the text to make your own sentences?

corpses _____

cemetery _____

grotesque-looking _____

hideous _____

terrified _____

accidentally _____

wife-to-be _____

catch _____



SESSION 1: **SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS**

Activity 2. The Characters



After reading the synopsis, you already know about three of the main characters from the play – Victor Frankenstein, the Creature and Elizabeth. Below is a list of all the main characters:

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN: a scientist obsessed with defeating death.

THE CREATURE: Victor's grotesque creation seeking acceptance.

WILMA FRANKENSTEIN: Victor's sister and Henry's fiancée.

HENRY CLERVAL: Victor's friend and Wilma's future husband.

JUSTINE MORITZ: Wilma's helper, accused of murder.

PROMETHEUS: Wilma's dog, key to Victor's experiments.

MARY SHELLEY: narrator and author of the story.

R. WALTON: publisher reflecting Mary's struggles.

The following sentences provide information about each character.



• Write questions using the sentences as the answers. The information you need to ask for is highlighted in bold. Use the words - who, what, how, etc. Sometimes there is more than one possible answer. The first example has been done for you.

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN: A young scientist
Victor Frankenstein has done a **fateful experiment**.

e.g. **Who has done a fateful experiment?**

SESSION 1: **SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS**

THE CREATURE: Victor's creation

The Creature **feels rejected** because of its grotesque appearance.

WILMA FRANKENSTEIN: Victor's sister and Henry's fiancée

Wilma **finds the engagement ring in Victor's laboratory.**

HENRY CLERVAL: Victor's friend

Henry is a romantic **who loves poetry and dreams.**

JUSTINE MORITZ: Wilma's helper

Justine **is accused of murdering Victor's brother.**

PROMETHEUS: Wilma's dog

Prometheus **dies in an accident during Victor's experiments.**

MARY SHELLEY: narrator and author

Mary Shelley **writes the story of Frankenstein inspired by her visions and personal losses.**

R. WALTON: editor

R. Walton **is surprised to discover that the author of the book is a woman.**



SESSION 1: **SYNOPSIS AND CHARACTERS**

Activity 3. Sequence of Events



• Now that you know the synopsis of the play and the characters, as a class, read the following extracts and number them in the correct order of events from 1 - 4 .

A. THE CREATURE AND VICTOR:

(The Creature kneels beside Victor.)

THE CREATURE: I didn't want this. I didn't want to hurt anyone, but you left me no choice. Your betrayal has turned me into this... monster.

(Victor stares at him, trembling, as the Creature lowers his voice.)

THE CREATURE: Now, Victor, you must pay for what you've done.

B. VICTOR: Agrippa once said: *'It is better to know nothing and believe by faith than to rise through science and fall into despair.'*

(Victor attaches the last electrode to the lifeless body on the table.)

This is it. Seven days of work. Seven days to create life. If this doesn't work, I'll have failed.

(Victor pulls the lever, and the room fills with electrical sparks. The body remains motionless. He sinks into despair as the light fades.)

C. WILMA AND THE CREATURE:

(Wilma practices her French lessons alone. The Creature emerges slowly from the shadows.)

WILMA: Who... who are you? Please, don't hurt me!

THE CREATURE: I've been watching your lessons. I've learned everything from the window. I want to belong here, with you, with Victor.

(Wilma stares at him in terror, stepping backward as the Creature approaches.)

D. THE CREATURE:

I am your creation, yet you've abandoned me! I have walked alone, cursed by your work. You owe me happiness, Victor. If I cannot have love, I will bring you misery. Make me a companion, someone like me. Someone as monstrous as I am.

(Victor hesitates, visibly torn, but he finally nods reluctantly.)



SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY

Activity 1. Fill in the gaps



- Read this extract from the play, in which Victor and Henry talk to the Creature for the first time since he killed Victor's brother, William. Match the correct line of dialogue to each gap.

CREATURE: *Is that all I am?*

WILMA: *What do you mean?*

CREATURE: *An experiment.*

WILMA: *You are much more than an experiment.*

CREATURE: *I am a monster. Everywhere I go, people run away. They hate me. I am alone. I've always been alone.*

VICTOR: _____

WILMA: *(Moved.) I can't imagine how much pain you must feel. Have you ever had a friend?*

CREATURE: *No one wants to be my friend. Loneliness is my only companion.*

VICTOR: _____

CREATURE: *No one. I learned by listening to your lessons. I stayed by the window every day.*

WILMA: *That's... incredible. You're...*

VICTOR: _____

(The Creature pulls out a wilted flower from its pocket and carefully places it on the table.)

CREATURE: *A living machine, one that picks flowers and listens to the voices of humans. But no matter what I do, no one sees me as anything but a monster.* WILMA: *(Tears welling up.)* _____

CREATURE: *Pain has been my only teacher. It taught me what I needed to know about humans.*

VICTOR: *You are a machine, nothing more. Machines don't feel.*

CREATURE: *Then why do I hurt? Why do I long for connection? You created me to live, but all I feel is rejection.*

WILMA: _____

CREATURE: *If I don't deserve to suffer, then help me. Let me be loved. Or at least... stop hating me.*



SESSION 2: **UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY**

1. *A living machine.*
2. *Who taught you to speak so well?*
3. *No one deserves to suffer like this.*
4. *Do you see that, Victor? He feels pain!*
5. *And why shouldn't they hate you? You killed my brother!*



Activity 2. What is happening?

Read Act III of the play where and answer the following questions:

1. Why does the Creature confront Victor?

- He wants Victor to leave the house.
- He demands Victor create a companion for him.
- He accuses Victor of stealing from him.

2. What does Wilma do when she meets the Creature?

- She screams and runs away.
- She tries to calm him and talk to him.
- She warns Victor about the Creature.

3. What does Victor say when Wilma suggests helping the Creature?

- "I will never help this monster!"
- "Maybe we should listen to him."
- "Wilma, stay out of this!"

SESSION 2: **UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY**

4. How does the Creature explain his loneliness?

- "I am alone because I am different."
- "You abandoned me, Victor, and now everyone else does too."
- "It is better to be alone than hated."

5. What does Wilma realize about the Creature?

- He is dangerous and must be destroyed.
- He feels pain and longs for connection.
- He is a machine incapable of emotion.

6. How does the Creature describe humans?

- "They are kind and understanding."
- "They hate what they don't understand."
- "They are all like Victor."

7. What does Victor blame the Creature for?

- "You killed William and destroyed my family."
- "You ruined my experiment."
- "You lied to me."

8. What does the Creature want Victor to do?

- Leave him alone forever.
- Create a companion for him.
- Let him live in the laboratory.



SESSION 2: **UNDERSTANDING THE PLAY**

Activity 3. Famous Monsters



- Can you name these famous monsters or monstrous characters?



Dracula



Werewolf



Frankenstein



Zombie



Mummy



- Can you think of any other famous monsters?



- Now it's your turn!

Imagine you are a brilliant scientist like Victor Frankenstein, and can create a monster of your own. How would you bring your monster to life? What materials would you use to create it? Think about how it would look, speak and move. Also consider where it would live, what it would do – would it terrorise people, or would it be a friendly monster? In groups, brainstorm some ideas and present them to the rest of the class.



SESSION 3:

Activity 1. Choose the correct tense



- In the following extract complete the sentences using the verb in brackets. You must choose between the following tenses - *Present Simple / Present Continuous / Future Simple*. The first example has been done for you.

(The Creature watches as Victor works tirelessly on the lifeless body lying on the table.)

CREATURE: You (1. *promise*) _____ me she would be ready weeks ago. How much longer (2. *it take*) _____?

VICTOR: I (3. *work*) _____ as fast as I can, but I need silence. This process (4. *require*) _____ precision.

CREATURE: Silence? Do you think silence (5. *fix*) _____ your failure? You (6. *waste*) _____ time while I remain alone.

(Victor pauses, glancing at the Creature, his frustration growing.)

VICTOR: She (7. *be*) _____ perfect, but perfection (8. *take*) _____ time. If you (9. *want*) _____ me to finish, let me work!

(The Creature steps closer, its voice trembling.)

CREATURE: And if she (10. *not love*) does not love me? If she (11. *hate*) _____ me as much as the rest of the world? What (12. *happen*) _____ to me then?

(Victor sets his tools down, his hands shaking slightly.)

VICTOR: Then we (13. *find*) _____ a way to make it work. But you (14. *need*) _____ to trust me.

CREATURE: Trust you? The last time I trusted you, you (15. *abandon*) _____ me.

(Victor sighs deeply and resumes working.)



SESSION 3: THE ENDING

Activity 2. What do you think?



- As a class, read this dialogue between the Creature and Victor. The dialogue takes place after the Creature sees the wife that Victor has created for him.

(The CREATURE approaches the unfinished body Victor is working on, his anger barely contained.)

CREATURE: Is this what you promised me? A pile of bones and half-finished work?

VICTOR: It's not ready. Perfection takes time.

CREATURE: Perfection? You think this is perfection? She doesn't even look like me. How do you expect her to understand me?

VICTOR: You asked for a companion. That's what I'm giving you. What more do you want?

CREATURE: I want someone who won't hate me. Someone who will see me as an equal. But you don't care about that, do you?

VICTOR: You've gone too far, Creature. If you can't accept my work, perhaps you don't deserve a companion at all.

(The CREATURE steps closer, his voice trembling with anger.)

CREATURE: If I cannot have love, I will bring you misery. You will pay for what you've done.

(VICTOR hesitates, then looks away as the CREATURE storms out of the room.)



- Who do you feel more sympathy for in this scene? Victor or the Creature? Why?
- Who do you see as the victim in their relationship? Victor, the Creature, or both?
- Do you think the Creature's anger is justified? Why or why not?
- If you were Victor, how would you handle the Creature's demands?
- Do you think Victor's creation of the companion is an act of responsibility or guilt?

Discuss your ideas as a class, giving reasons for your opinions.

Use the following phrases to help you...

In my opinion...

From my point of view...

I believe that...

The way I see it...



SESSION 4: Express Yourself!

Activity 1. What did you think?



Now that you have seen the play, let's talk about the experience....

1. What was your general impression of the play?

I thought it was

funny

exciting

boring

entertaining

clever

inspiring

enjoyable

because...

2. What did you like the most?

The best part was...

The funniest part was...

The most entertaining part was...

The most enjoyable part was...



SESSION 4: Express Yourself!

Activity 3. Your turn!



- As a class, read the ending of the play again. Now, in groups, pretend you are the writers of the play and invent your own ending. Write your own script and act out your new endings for your class mates.

(The monster rises and moves toward Victor, who tries to defend himself by raising his weapon, but the monster grabs his arm. The creature throws him to the ground. Victor slowly raises the weapon again, struggling against the monster's strength.)

VICTOR: You are a monster, and you deserve to die.

CREATURE: We had a deal. You were supposed to create a woman for me. You owed me. I am your miserable creation; I have the devil inside me...

(Victor fires, and the monster collapses to the ground.)

(Victor stands next to Henry as the scene shifts.)

ACT V

(The scene changes to an editorial worker sitting on a chair, reviewing books that have passed or failed review.)

R. WALTON: No... No... No... Mmm... The Vampyre, YES! A story by Lord Byron. Wait!

(A letter falls out of the book.)

R. WALTON: "In the presence of the editor, I strongly request that this book be renamed in favor of the author, John William Polidori, whose words were absolutely written by this person. Yours sincerely, J. W. Polidori."

OTHER SHOWS

1º & 2º Secondary Education

Lucky Day (*In English*)

Notredame de Paris (*En Français*)

La isla del tesoro

El Quijote

Tres sombreros de copa

Frankenstein

Didactic Project elaborated by
Elena Valero Bellé



Something big is about to happen and you can see it live at the theatre! With this musical, based on the brilliant book by Mary Shelley, your English classes will come to life at last. Specially adapted to your students' level, they will have a ball with the most beastly show of the season.

