

MARY SHELLEY'S

FRANKENSTEIN

OR THE MODERN PROMETHEUS



Agree or Disagree?

	Agree	Disagree
1. Technology will eventually solve most of our problems.		
2. Medical researchers will eventually find cures for the major ailments.		
3. Aging and death are a part of the natural cycle; we will never find a way to avoid them.		
4. Scientists should be given more freedom.		
5. Scientists should not be held responsible for the ways their discoveries are put to use.		
6. Parents should be held accountable for their children's misbehavior.		
7. Being a parent is a big responsibility.		
8. People with physical deformities are often mistreated because others fear them.		
9. Everyone has the right to become a parent.		
10. Companionship is a basic need that is as important as food or shelter.		
11. Revenge is sweet.		
12. I like a scary story.		
13. Frankenstein's monster was evil.		
14. Everyone has a good side and a bad side.		
15. If you're accused but innocent, justice will prevail.		
16. People tend to get nasty in a crowd.		
17. Pursuit of knowledge should be for the purpose of improving the world.		
18. I like to learn for the sake of learning.		

Letters 1-4

1. Who is R. Walton and why is he writing to his sister?
2. What did R. Walton love to read about when he was a boy?
3. What career did R. Walton pursue unsuccessfully for a year before inheriting his cousin's fortune?
4. What does R. Walton tell his sister is the "one want which I have never yet been able to satisfy"? (p, 11)
5. Why did R. Walton decide to hire the man who is now master of the ship?
6. What strange sight did R. Walton and his men see with their telescopes as they waited for the fog to clear?
7. What was odd about the stranger's asking where the ship was going before he consented to come on board?
8. What did the stranger answer when asked why he had come so far on the ice?

9. What is it about the stranger that Captain Walton finds so interesting and appealing?
What is it about the Captain that makes the stranger so gloomy and upset?

Chapters 1-4

1. Whose relationship is the stranger describing when he says, “He strove to shelter her, as a fair exotic is sheltered by the gardener...” ?
2. How did the stranger’s parents treat him when he was a child?
3. Why did the peasant family raise Elizabeth—and why did they give her up?
4. To what native country did Victor’s parents return to raise their children?
5. Who was Victor’s close boyhood friend?
6. When he was 15, what did Victor see that made him doubt that the ancient philosophers who had so intrigued him could ever provide real knowledge?

7. How did Victor's mother die?

8. Who told Victor he was "happy to have gained a disciple"?

9. "Although I possessed the capacity of bestowing animation, yet to prepare a frame for the reception of it...still remained a work of inconceivable difficulty and labour." What was Victor saying—and in what tone of voice do you imagine him saying it?

10. Will Victor's father learn what he is up to at school?

Chapters 5-7

1. How did Victor spend the night after bringing the creature to life?

2. How much did Victor confide to his friend Clerval about bringing the creature to life?

3. What is Victor describing when he says that "surely nothing but the unbounded and unremitting attentions of my friend could have restored me to life"?

Chapters 8-11

1. Why did it look as if Justine were the murderer?
2. What did Elizabeth say to the court in Justine's defense?
3. Why did Justine confess and what was the result?
4. "When I reflected on his crimes...I would have made a pilgrimage to the highest peak of the Andes, could I when there have precipitated him to their base." How did Victor feel about his creation—and why didn't he hunt down the creature?
5. Where did Victor next see the creature and why didn't he take the opportunity to destroy his creation?
6. What deal did the creature make with Victor?
7. What did the creature tell Victor about how he spent his first weeks after his creation?

8. Briefly describe the cottagers living next to the creature's refuge.

9. Write down one or two sentences that show the creature's positive feelings toward the cottagers as he observes them.

10. How will the cottagers react when they see the creature?

Chapters 12-15

1. Why did the creature stop taking food from the cottagers' store?

2. How did the creature learn to speak?

3. How did the creature learn to read?

4. How did the creature learn what he looked like?

Chapters 16-19

1. How did the creature learn that the cottagers had moved out of their cottage?
2. Where did the creature decide to go after burning the cottage?
3. The creature says that “a circumstance that happened when I arrived on the confines of Switzerland...confirmed...the bitterness and horror of my feelings.” What happened?
4. How did the creature get revenge when he arrived in Geneva?
5. Why did the creature want Justine to suffer and how did he decide to accomplish that?
6. What reason did Victor give the creature for refusing to create a female?
7. “After...reflection, I concluded that the justice due both to him and my fellow creatures demanded of me that I should comply with his request.” Briefly explain.

8. Why did Victor return to England?

9. Cite a line that conveys how much Victor dreaded the work he was doing on the female.

10. What will happen when the creature comes to claim the female that Victor is making?

Chapters 20-22

1. List two fears Victor had about creating a female creature.

2. What did Victor do when he saw the creature watching him work on the female?

3. How did Victor interpret the creature's threat, "...remember, I shall be with you on your wedding night"?

Chapters 23-24

1. When Victor heard his bride scream, “the whole truth rushed into my mind.” Briefly explain what he realized.
2. How did Victor’s father react to the news that Elizabeth was dead?
3. Why did Victor describe the creature to the magistrate?
4. Why did Victor travel for several months after Elizabeth’s murder?
5. Why did the creature sometimes leave Victor messages about where to find food?
6. What does Victor ask Walton to promise, if Victor dies while the monster still lives?
7. What are Victor’s and Walton’s reactions when the men make their demand to return home?

