

## **Study Questions & Essay Topics**

1. Discuss the novel's shifts in narrative perspective. What is the effect of presenting different characters' viewpoints, especially those of Victor and the monster?
2. Trace and discuss the role of letters and written communication throughout the novel.
3. Discuss the presentation of women in the novel. Do Victor and the monster differ in their view of women, and if so, how?
4. Discuss the role of sickness in the novel. Victor often seems to fall ill after traumatic events. Is this a means of escape, and, if so, is it effective? Is there another explanation for his recurring illness?
5. Do the monster's eloquence and persuasiveness make it easier for the reader to sympathize with him? Why do you think most film versions of the story present the monster as mute or inarticulate?
6. Trace the similarities between Victor and the monster. Consider their respective relationships with nature, desires for family, and any other important parallels you find. Do Victor and the monster become more similar as the novel goes on? How does their relationship with each other develop?
7. Victor attributes his tragic fate to his relentless search for knowledge. Do you think that this is the true cause of his suffering? In what ways does the novel present knowledge as dangerous and destructive?
8. Examine the role of suspense and foreshadowing throughout the novel. Do you think these devices are effective, or does Victor's blatant foreshadowing reveal too much? How does foreshadowing differ among the three main narrators (Walton, Victor, and the monster)?
9. Discuss the Scientific Method as used in the novel (or the lack thereof). Discuss Victor's sources for scientific study. What reasons motivated him to go through with his project? Bring forth original insight to show your critical thinking skills.
10. Choose one of the questions from the Read Along Guides and write it on a 3X5 card. You may put on it a few notes to help you write an effective essay in class, but do not write the whole response on the card. Staple the card to your test and hand it in at the end of testing on Wednesday.

The Final for *Frankenstein* will ask you to answer three-five of these questions in one or two paragraphs.