



Title: Frankenstein: The 1818 Text
Author: Mary Shelley
Publisher: Penguin Classics
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ISBN: 9780143131847
Format: Paperback
Grade Range: Gr 9 Up

BOOK RESUME: FRANKENSTEIN: THE 1818 TEXT

BOOK SYNOPSIS

Obsessed by creating life itself, Victor Frankenstein plunders graveyards for the material to fashion a new being, which he shocks into life by electricity. But his botched creature, rejected by Frankenstein and denied human companionship, sets out to destroy his maker and all that he holds dear.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“Frankenstein is as efficient and resonant a reference today as it was in 1818. In this bicentennial year, much will be written about Frankenstein, its adaptations, and whether there exists a definitive or superior version of the novel. . . The 1818 Text is reflective of the thrill and nervous energy that ushered in a new era of science and society. . . But part of what makes it a little unsettling is what makes it so interesting: The chance to watch a 200-year-old novel develop. In a story that’s reflected so much of the last two hundred years, and centers so much on choices, storytelling, and the potential for change, it only makes sense that Frankenstein reflects changes within its own creator”

—Genevieve Valentine, NPR

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- [PBS Great American Read](#) (2018)
- [The 100 Best Novels](#) *The Guardian* (2014)
- [Everyman’s Library Classics](#)

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- Cincinnati Art Museum presents Art Palace Podcast “[Episode 52: Dissecting "Frankenstein" with Kristopher Holland](#)” (2018)
- “[Tales of the Supernatural](#)” Lesson Plans Grades 9-12, [EDSITEment](#)- Provides learning objectives and activities for students grade 9-12 centered around *Frankenstein* and other literary works of horror.
- University of Pennsylvania’s [list of articles on Frankenstein](#)
- Modern Language Association, [Approaches to Teaching Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, edited by Stephen Behrendt](#) (1990)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- Shulman, Dylan. “[Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus](#)”. *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 2 Aug. 2024: “Some early readers of *Frankenstein* condemned it as a radical, immoral book: by giving life to a new being, Frankenstein seizes and then corrupts a power previously thought to be reserved for God. That accusation would seem to be well-suited for Percy Shelley, who was an atheist, but it fits awkwardly on Mary Shelley, whose diary reveals her devout Christian beliefs.”

Updated 9.2.2024

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book’s intended use.

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