

FRANKENSTEIN Chapters 1-5

1. Summarize Frankenstein's background. Where is he from? What was his education like? What else do we learn about his family? About him?
2. What is the story of Caroline Beaufort?
3. How does Frankenstein feel toward his parents?
4. What responsibility does he feel they had toward him (this one's important later!)
5. Who is Elizabeth and how does Frankenstein feel about her?
6. Who is Henry Clerval and what is his relation to Frankenstein?
7. What does their relationship tell you about Frankenstein's values and personality?
8. How would a modern scientist respond to the theory of "Natural Philosophy"? What sort of science is this?
9. What is Frankenstein's purpose in pursuing science?
10. What does he study? What event(s) inspired this field of study? Who takes credit for Frankenstein's change in direction?
11. Whom or what does he blame for his "utter and terrible destruction"?
12. What happens to Mrs. Frankenstein as a result of Elizabeth's scarlet fever? How does this compare with the mother's early history?
13. Why does Frankenstein's father send him to university? How old is Frankenstein when he goes to university?
14. What does Victor learn from Krempe? How does Victor respond to him?
15. Is this a good basis for making such a decision? Explain.
16. What does Victor learn from Waldman? How does Victor respond to him?
17. What does Victor think of 'older' science as opposed to modern science?
18. What does Waldman say regarding chemistry that changes Victor's mind?
19. What does Victor say he will now do?
20. What does he become interested in, and what does he, ultimately, discover?
21. Will he share that knowledge with Walton? Why? (not the 'present' of the story breaking into the narration here)
22. Describe Frankenstein's process of creating a human being. How long does it take?
23. What does he expect the result to be?
24. What happens to Victor in the process?
25. What is unexpected about the description of the actual creation of life here? How much do we learn of the actual procedure? Why?
26. How does Victor respond to the actual creation of life? How does the Creature's looks surprise Victor? Why does it surprise him?
27. How can we interpret Frankenstein's initial response to the success of his experiment?
28. Frankenstein says, "I shunned my fellow creatures as if I had been guilty of a crime." Give at least three specific examples of Frankenstein's isolation from others.
29. What does this tell you about his personality? Explain.
30. What does Victor dream?
31. How does the dream grow out of, comment on, and even explain what Victor has done and been through?
32. What does the creature do? How does Victor respond?
33. Whom does Victor meet arriving in a coach next morning and how does he respond to this person?
34. When they return to Victor's apartment, what is discovered? What is Victor's response?
35. What happens to him, and for how long?
36. Is there any more news of the monster?