

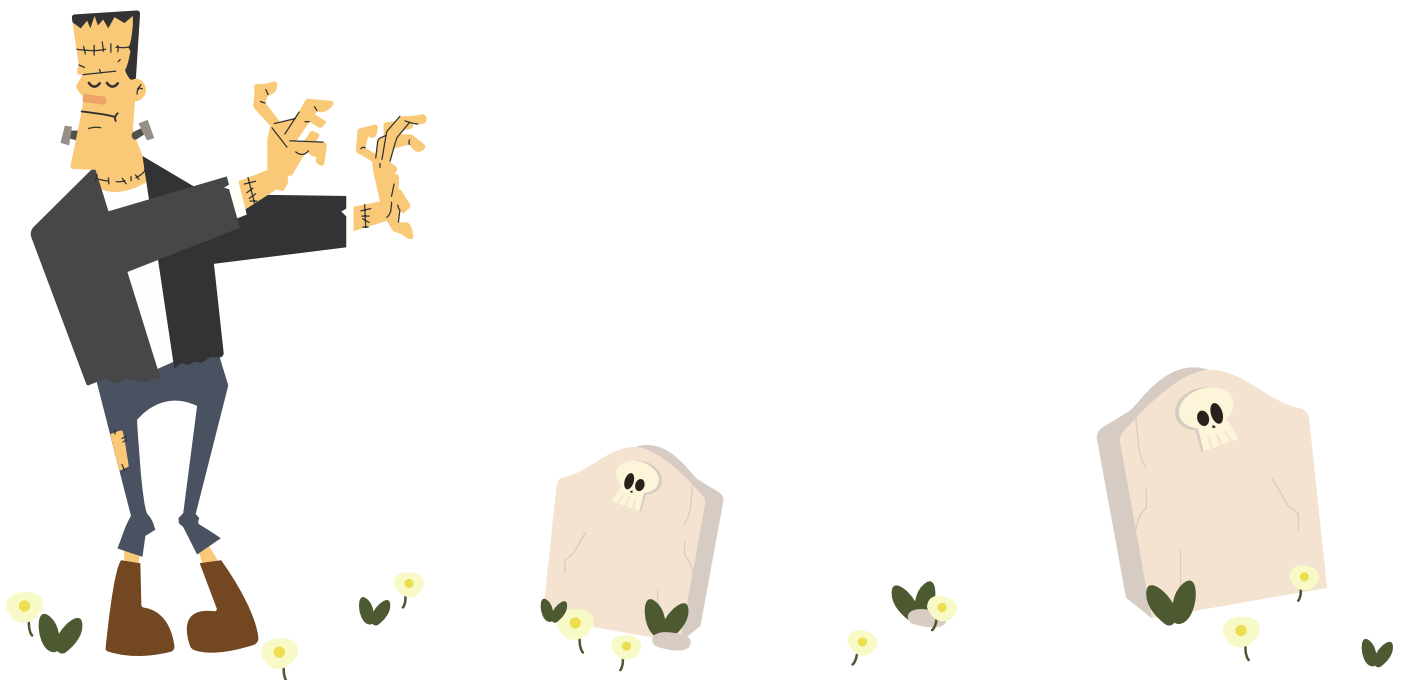
# FRANKENSTEIN

1 My father made no reproach in his letters and only took notice of my silence  
2 by inquiring into my occupations more particularly than before. Winter, spring,  
3 and summer passed away during my labours; but I did not watch the  
4 blossom or the expanding leaves—sights which before always yielded me  
5 supreme delight—so deeply was I engrossed in my occupation. The leaves of  
6 that year had withered before my work drew near to a close, and now every  
7 day showed me more plainly how well I had succeeded. But my enthusiasm  
8 was checked by my anxiety, and I appeared rather like one doomed by slavery  
9 to toil in the mines, or any other unwholesome trade than an artist occupied  
10 by his favourite employment. Every night I was oppressed by a slow fever, and  
11 I became nervous to a most painful degree; the fall of a leaf startled me, and  
12 I shunned my fellow creatures as if I had been guilty of a crime. Sometimes I  
13 grew alarmed at the wreck I perceived that I had become; the energy of my  
14 purpose alone sustained me: my labours would soon end, and I believed that  
15 exercise and amusement would then drive away incipient disease; and I  
promised myself both of these when my creation should be complete.

16 It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my  
17 toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the  
18 instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the  
19 lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain  
20 pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out,  
21 when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye  
22 of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its  
23 limbs. How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how define the  
24 wretch, whom with such infinite pains and care, I had endeavoured to form?  
25 His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful.  
26 Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles  
27 and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of  
28 a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast  
29 with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white  
30 sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black  
31 lips.

# FRANKENSTEIN

32 The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of  
33 human nature. I had worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of  
34 infusing life into an inanimate body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and  
35 health. I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now  
36 that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror  
37 and disgust filled my heart. Unable to endure the aspect of the being I had  
38 created, I rushed out of the room and continued a long time traversing my  
39 bed-chamber, unable to compose my mind to sleep.



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1** Which of these descriptions best describes the demands of the work?
- A** The narrator needed to sacrifice pleasures to pursue the work
  - B** The narrator worked the minimum daily amount which lasted a year
  - C** The narrator had to deal with the work as well as interest his father
  - D** The narrator saw little progress daily but needed to continue
- 
- 2** Which option best describes how the narrator feels about his work?
- A** The narrator is nervous about something
  - B** The narrator feels bound to his work
  - C** The narrator feels guilt for disappointing his father
  - D** The narrator's work makes him physically ill
- 
- 3** Which of these statements are false?
- A** The narrator is afflicted with a long-lasting illness
  - B** The narrator was startled by even the smallest things
  - C** The narrator was shocked by what he was turning into
  - D** The narrator was ignored by his community as if he was a criminal
- 
- 4** What does the narrator suggest was the biggest influence for continuing his work?
- A** He knew his reason for living is to finish his work
  - B** He knew that after finishing the work he could get back to full health
  - C** He knew that the work was nearly over
  - D** He had put in so much work that he couldn't stop now
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**5** “Every night I was oppressed by a slow fever”. What writing technique is this?

- A** Simile
  - B** Metaphor
  - C** Personification
  - D** Hyperbole
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**6** Which of these statements are true?

- A** Exercise and fun will help him recover
  - B** The narrator’s father was always interested in the narrator’s silence
  - C** The leaves withered in front of where the narrator was working
  - D** After working the narrator will spend time on healthier activities
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**7** “With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony”. What does this line suggest?

- A** The narrator was experiencing the same level of pain and anxiety
  - B** The narrator experienced so much anxiety that it was actually painful
  - C** The narrator felt like he was suffering from the amount of anxiety
  - D** The narrator did not even notice the anxiety since he was in agony
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**8** What clue suggests that the narrator had spent a long time in the evening working?

- A** It was one in the morning
  - B** The candle was close to extinguishing
  - C** The weather was dull and dreary
  - D** He is feeling very low and depressed
-

- 9** “The rain pattered dismally against the panes”. What writing technique has the writer used here?
- A** Alliteration
  - B** Metaphor
  - C** Onomatopoeia
  - D** Simile
- 
- 10** What or who is the narrator describing as a ‘catastrophe’?
- A** The horrible act he has just committed
  - B** The poor weather conditions
  - C** Himself
  - D** The body he has just bought to life
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- 11** Read the description of the body from lines 21 to 31, what option best fits with the description?
- A** The body was as beautiful as anybody could imagine
  - B** The body was hideous as anybody could imagine
  - C** Beautiful features of the body highlighted ugly features
  - D** The body had perfect and desired features
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- 12** Why did the narrator deprive himself of health and rest?
- A** He desired to combine life with a dead body
  - B** He was incredibly enthusiastic about something
  - C** He had worked hard for nearly two years
  - D** He was under a very tight deadline
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**13** What happened as soon as the narrator achieved his goal?

- A** He felt disappointed
  - B** He felt disgusted
  - C** He felt guilty
  - D** He felt lonely
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**14** What genre would you say this is?

- A** An action story
  - B** A horror story
  - C** An adventure story
  - D** A mysterious story
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**15** Can you find evidence to help support your answer?

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**16** How would you describe the narrator? (3 marks)

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