

KID FRANKENSTEIN



**A Large Cast Play
For Young People to Perform
After Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein"**

**Adapted By
Kathryn Schultz Miller**

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KID FRANKENSTEIN

Setting: Snoozeville, America

Characters: Flexible Cast of About 20-30

Easily adapted for larger or smaller cast

FRANKIE STEIN – Kid Scientist (M/F, 97 lines)

FRANKIE #1 – (M/F, 26 lines)

FRANKIE #2 – (M/F, 26 lines, enter page 14)

FRANKIE #3 – (M/F, 21 lines, enter page 25)

FRANKIE #4 – (M/F, 24 lines, enter page 36)

IRVING – Frankie's Best Friend (M/F, 79 lines)

IRVING #1 – (M/F, 24 lines)

IRVING #2 – (M/F, 23 lines, enter page 14)

IRVING #3 – (M/F, 15 lines, enter page 22)

IRVING #4 – (M/F, 17 lines, enter page 32)

HELGA – Principal's Daughter/Son (M/F, 51 lines)

HELGA #1 – (M/F, 25 lines)

HELGA #2 – (M/F, 26 lines, enter page 32)

KIDZ – School Kids, Storytellers, Villagers (Together 1 line, much action)

ABIGAIL – (M/F, 12 lines)

DARRYL – (M/F, 8 lines)

JAYDEN – (M/F, 8 lines)

MEGAN – (M/F, 7 lines)

SHAWNA – (M/F, 7 lines)

ZACH – (M/F, 7 lines)

GANG OF BONEZ – Kid Troublemakers, Villagers (Together 1 line, much action)

T-BONE – Ringleader (M/F, 15 lines)

BARBIE Q – (M/F, 6 lines)

CLEAVER – (M/F, 5 lines)

KNUCKLEHEAD – (M/F, 5 lines)

N. M. SKULL – (M/F, 3 lines)

RIBEYE – (M/F, 4 lines)

MRS. NEWTON – Science Teacher – (M/F, 53 lines)

MRS. NEWTON #1 – (M/F, 26 lines)

MRS. NEWTON #2 – (M/F, 27 lines, enter page 25)

MR. KLONDIKE – Principal (M/F, 25 lines)

MR. SPOTS – Zookeeper (M/F, 11 lines)

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY – Nearsighted Neighbor (M/F, 17 lines)

MONSTER – Monster (M/F, 28 lines, mostly "Mmmmm...")

[**VILLAGERS** – Optionally add more Villagers (no specific lines)]

STAGING NOTES

Setting: You may place this story in any ordinary town where kids live and go to school. You and your kids should decide if it is urban or suburban, their own town or a place of fantasy. By making key decisions together on set pieces and costumes you can create a play that is unique to the vision you and your kids share.

Set pieces: There are basically two settings: a basement that the kids imagine is a laboratory and a classroom. You may designate two sides of the stage or playing area for these two setting locations.

Basement/Laboratory: The basement needs to have objects that the kids can imagine are equipment in a laboratory. A bicycle and old boom box are suggested and you may go with just those pieces or you can add lots of old electrical and mechanical devices such as clocks, microwave, lamps, microscope, computer gear, fans, power tools, car parts etc. If you choose to add lots of these, try to incorporate them into the action. You can have all these zany props available at the start of rehearsal and ask the kids to be thinking throughout the rehearsal process of ways they can be used to enhance the performance.

Classroom: Just a free-standing blackboard and chairs arranged around it will suggest a classroom. These pieces can be easily moved to the side or off, to give more room for other scenes. A “Science Fair” sign and a cloth backdrop will indicate the Science Fair scene.

Silk-like Cloths: Use large pieces of inexpensive cloth to cover parts of the stage when not in use. Also have your performers use these as a way to indicate set-changes or an imagined “black-out” old movie style. Block your KIDZ to be ready at the start of the cloth’s use to flutter it upwards and shimmer around the stage as narration is delivered. Once this convention is established it is not too important to make sure everything is covered during scene changes. Use it more to indicate change of setting than an actual curtain device.

Playing Area: A conventional stage may be used or you may create a performance space on the floor of a gym or large room. Arrange the audience’s chairs around a horse shoe shaped space and allow two aisles for audience and players to use. (See more in Teachers Guide.)

Use of Audience Space: If you’ve done my plays before you know how much I love to break out of the confinement of the stage or playing area. If you are performing on a floor, make sure you stage action in the two aisles and behind the audience. If you are using a stage, make sure there is a way for players to climb down and enter the audience area. Several players will need to plan ahead and position themselves in the audience for upcoming Villagers scenes. And of course, the Monster needs to “terrorize” the audience by walking among them.

Monster: You can make your Monster look similar to the iconic image from the 1931 *Frankenstein* movie. Or you can let your imagination go wild. I think it's best to have a little bit of a suggestion of the traditional green-headed-square-haired monster but very distorted to suggest Kid Frankie's creation. (See more on this in script and in Teachers Guide.)

Costumes: KIDZ should dress the way ordinary kids do with a few exaggerated elements to their outfits. They may wear colored hair or striped socks or pig tails or anything that is basically believable but just a little outside the box. The students playing these characters can decide if they want to be themselves or another kind of kid. Help them decide how to costume the character by asking what kind of music they like; what are they good at in school; what do their rooms look like at home. (See more on this in Teachers Guide)

Klondike's & Helga's Accent: Don't even try to make this a real accent. Every word and pronunciation should be for comic effect. Just say zee wordz in zee funny way for ha-ha.

Age of Performers: To be sure, *Kid Frankenstein* is more challenging than ArtReach's average School Play. I suggest Upper Elementary, Middle School and High School students for this cast. However, if you want to cast younger kids I would not shy away it. There's nothing wrong with letting a child perform a challenging role if they feel comfortable and are not intimidated by it. You can help a child feel successful by not being too insistent on perfection. If they paraphrase their lines, it is quite all right as long as the basic points of scene are still there. As you will read, Frankie's lines can easily be a word salad of silliness any kid can come up with.

For a Larger Cast: Look for "**OPTIONAL TRANSITION**" throughout the script. These indicate breaks in the storytelling where you might exchange performers in the large roles of FRANKIE, IRVING, HELGA and MRS. NEWTON. These roles may be divided further to have more kids play these popular roles. Expand the KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ to include more kids. The role of the MONSTER may be divided and assigned to 2 or more players. The KIDZ play TV News reporters during the show; these may be assigned to other performers. MR. SPOTS appears after his first scene; this role may be given to another performer. The script directs KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ to become Villagers at the end of the play; other performers may play Villagers and you can add many who perform on the stage and in the audience.

For a Smaller Cast: All the divided roles may be played by just one performer. KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ may be reduced to just 2 or 3.

Surrender to Silliness: The best way to get the best performance is to allow the kids to feel safe and encouraged to let loose. Encourage laughter and silliness and kids will respond with confidence. Don't let the rehearsal process get you down; have fun, stay cool, trust the kids! Your show will be great!

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

All kids love the title *Frankenstein*. Just mention it and they will ooh and ah and ask to see or read it. As a teacher or a parent you may have thought this through at some point and decided the story is not appropriate for kids even though they beg for it. Mary Shelley's original novel and all the many adaptations that came after contain gruesome elements; things we may not want in our stories for children.

For many years I have considered writing a version of the novel for kids to perform but just couldn't get past some of the darker aspects of the story. Finally I came up with some possibilities and made some unorthodox changes that devotees of the classic may consider sacrilege. But I think you'll agree when you read it, that it is not only safe for kids – it's great fun for them too!

It is always a joy when characters take over and write their own scenes. This happened many times while I was channeling this nutty cast of characters. Our hero Frankie (or Francis) is a kid with big dreams and a big ego. Although he seems to be intellectually ahead of all the other students in his science class, he is really just exploring the world in his own unique way. *Kid Frankenstein* is all about individuality, curiosity and finding your own distinctive path.

In *Kid Frankenstein* everyone gets to join in the great experiment! Just follow Frankie's lead and let yourself be carried away by the thrill ride that only imagination can provide. And don't forget to laugh! Hilarity, silliness and laughter are the main ingredients of *Kid Frankenstein*. Just trust your funny bone and you can't go wrong. Have a great show!

KSM

8/12/17

KID FRANKENSTEIN CD Sound Cues

CD soundtrack available from ArtReach Children's Theatre Plays

CUE	TIME	DESCRIPTION*	PAGE CUE LINE / ACTION
1	0:25	Thunder	Pg 8, "...pretty weird stuff going down."
2	0:25	Thunder	Pg 8, "This was really happening!"
3	0:45	Organ, thunder, school bell	Pg 12, "Frankenstein."
4	0:16	School bell	Pg 18, "...with Helga on your project."
5	0:51	Transition music, train, thunder	Pg 19, "Hey, Frankie, wait up!"
6	0:17	Electricity	Pg 20, "Oh here it is!"
7	0:39	Tiptoeing music, thunder	Pg 22, "Walk this way."
8	0:11	Glass breaking	Pg 24, "High-five!"
9	0:21	Electricity	Pg 27, "Yahvo, Master."
10	1:25	Monster theme music	Pg 28, <i>Monster's hand appears.</i>
11	0:46	Electricity, monster music	Pg 28, "Mmmmmmm..."
12	0:27	Door bell, pause, door bell	Pg 30, "...person who did not own a TV..."
13	0:43	Organ, thunder, monster music	Pg 32/33, "In zee dark."
14	1:32	Thunder, entrancing violin music	Pg 33, "Oh!"
15	0:48	Violin: Turkey in the Straw	Pg 34, "Okay."
16	0:57	Violin: Bow, Turkey in the Straw	Pg 38, "The creature!"
17	0:14	Wah-wah sound	Pg 40, <i>After volcano fizzles</i>
18	0:36	Organ, thunder	Pg 41, "Fluffy?" <i>then short silence</i>
19	0:40	Sappy music	Pg 45, "... Mr. Klondike. You see..."
20	0:48	Electricity, organ, thunder	Pg 48, "Yes, master."
21	2:29	Curtain call music, sounds	Pg 49, <i>After show ends.</i>

Cues have ½ second of silence at the beginning and 10 seconds at the end. Times shown include silence. Some cues may be longer than needed so they can play through your particular staging and fade out at the end of the action or when the scene changes.

Start the play with Cue 1, then use Pause/Fwd/Play controls for each cue:

- Press PAUSE at the end of the cue or fade out VOLUME then PAUSE.
- Press FWD (or SKIP, right arrows) to set at next cue.
- Press PLAY to start the next cue at the appropriate line or action as indicated above.

KID FRANKENSTEIN

AT RISE: All things necessary for the laboratory/basement and classroom scenes are in place on stage or playing area. They are covered in large silk-like cloths that will be removed as scenes begin throughout the performance. The laboratory/basement will need a small ping pong table, a big boom box and large cardboard box/package along with other things that read typical kid's basement. There may be some nondescript furniture that may be moved around to create different levels for scenes.

(KIDZ enter and speak to audience.)

ABIGAIL: Things are pretty quiet around here now...

DARRYL: But it wasn't too long ago...

JAYDEN: We had some pretty weird stuff going down.

(SOUND CUE #1: Thunder! KIDZ look around. SOUND CUE ENDS.)

MEGAN: It was spooky and creepy and scary!

ZACH: You can say that again.

MEGAN: It was spooky and creepy and scary!

SHAWNA: Like Halloween night!

ZACH: Only it wasn't Halloween...

ABIGAIL: This was really happening!

(SOUND CUE #2: Thunder! KIDZ huddle together. SOUND CUE ENDS.)

DARRYL: It all started with the biggest nerd in school...

JAYDEN: *(Clamping a hand over DARRYL's mouth.)* Don't say that!

(All look around, afraid.)

DARRYL: I mean this kid in school who was really cool... *(Looks to JAYDEN.)*
Okay? Even though everybody thought he was totally loony tunes crazy.

(FRANKIE enters wearing lab coat. He wrings his hands and looks at audience with wild eyes. Speaks famous line from 1931 Frankenstein movie.)

FRANKIE: Crazy am I? We'll see if I'm crazy or not.

(FRANKIE turns and adjusts silk cloth, revealing various parts of his basement as KIDZ speak.)

DARRYL: *(To audience.)* This guy Frankie was hanging out with his best friend Irving...

(IRVING enters. He listens to iPod with ear buds and is boogying to the music in his nerdful way. He is unaware of the KIDZ or FRANKIE.)

JAYDEN: The Science Fair was coming up and these two had big plans.

(KIDZ make knocking sound as IRVING knocks on door. FRANKIE hears the sound and goes to open "door" in front of IRVING. KIDZ exit or move upstage or out of scene.)

FRANKIE: *(Greeting IRVING, putting on mad scientist voice.)* Ah ha! My trusted assistant! Welcome to my la-bore-atory! I see you found the secret passageway!

IRVING: *(Entering.)* Knock it off, Frankie. Anybody can see this is just your basement and I came in through the cellar door.

FRANKIE: Quite right my faithful friend, *Igor!*

IRVING: *(Getting candy bar from backpack.)* Huh?

FRANKIE: My faithful assistant and constant companion, *Igor!*

IRVING: Not this again.

FRANKIE: *(Prompting.)* Once again I must express my sympathies for the unfortunate and astonishing growth of some kind on your back!
(Pointing.) On your back!

IRVING: Sheesh.

(IRVING drops into "Igor" stance. His backpack becomes his hump. He suddenly hunches and drags one foot across the floor. Speaks in Igor voice.)

Thank you, master. Very kind.

FRANKIE: Never mention it! A scientist must be aware of the infirmities and misfortunes all around him! In this way science can improve the lot of mankind!

IRVING: (*Forgetting to be Igor, taking a bite of candy bar.*) Speaking of which, what's your big plan for the Science Fair?

FRANKIE: Ahem.

IRVING: (*Back to Igor.*) I mean... (*Hunches.*) What is to be your next experiment, master?

FRANKIE: It is interesting you should ask me that! I was considering a wind experiment! It would involve living birds and feathers and flare guns and earwax! The result would tell us the properties of the heat generated by a chicken's wing as it tries to fly which it cannot do! In short a study of alternative energy and advanced aerodynamics!

IRVING: (*Unimpressed.*) Mrs. Mulvaney keeps chickens in her backyard. You want I should get?

FRANKIE: Then I considered a quest for the understanding of the chemistry of removing grass stains from a soiled and wretched football jersey! An outcome that would benefit overworked mothers everywhere for although detergents claim to get out stubborn grass stains they never do! Such a discovery would be a boon for mankind!

IRVING: No problem, plenty of those in my closet.

FRANKIE: (*Dramatically.*) But then!

IRVING: But then?

FRANKIE: The most miraculous thing occurred!

IRVING: Which is?

FRANKIE: (*Removes a cloth from a box.*) Behold! It arrived quite out of the blue just this very morning!

IRVING: FedEx or UPS?

FRANKIE: Ahem!

IRVING: (*Becoming Igor.*) Ah, master! From whence came this marvelous new thing and what in the Sam Hill is it?

FRANKIE: Look! Just take a gander – with your good eye – at the return address.

IRVING: *(He slides his foot over and looks.)* Transylvania!

(FRANKIE stands at ecstatic attention, gloating. IRVING drops Igor routine.)

Oh, come on, Frankie. There's no way you got a package from Transylvania.

FRANKIE: *(Dropping the mad scientist.)* It was on the front door step when I got up this morning. It came from Transylvania. Look, Irving! That's what it says right there on the label!

IRVING: You put it on there.

FRANKIE: I did not! I totally swear on my parakeet's grave! Scout's honor! Cross my heart and hope to die.

IRVING: Needle?

FRANKIE: In my eye!

(IRVING examines box, very big. He tugs it, kicks it.)

IRVING: Somebody's playing a trick on you.

FRANKIE: *(Back to mad scientist.)* There are no tricks in science! Everything can be scientifically proven! I believe that what we have here, dear Igor, is the clue to my most magnificent experiment yet!

IRVING: Open it.

FRANKIE: *(Scientist completely gone. Suddenly scared.)* You think we should?

IRVING: What else are we going to do?

FRANKIE: Igor! Hand me my scalpel!

IRVING: Frankie, we don't have any scalpels. Here's the scissors.

(FRANKIE cuts the string. Opens flaps and dives into the box, packing peanuts flying everywhere. FRANKIE'S feet are kicking above the box.)

Well?

(FRANKIE makes muffled sound, head in box.)

What's that?

(FRANKIE comes up for air.)

FRANKIE: Nothing!

IRVING: Nothing? Let me look.

(IRVING climbs in and scrambles around.)

Mmmm-mmm... *(Muffled)* ...on the bottom.

(He comes up for air.)

FRANKIE: Well?

(IRVING holds up enormous book.)

IRVING: This!

FRANKIE: A book?

(IRVING hands it to FRANKIE. FRANKIE blows off the dust. Reads.)

"How I Did It"

IRVING: How he did what? Who wrote it?

FRANKIE: It says right here. Written by Herr Doctor...

IRVING: Herr Doctor who, what? What?

FRANKIE: Herr. Doctor. Victor. Von.

IRVING: What? What?

(FRANKIE looks up amazed.)

FRANKIE: Frankenstein.

(SOUND CUE #3: Sudden terrifying organ music! Thunder! Lightning!)

IRVING and FRANKIE stare at each other, open-mouthed, wide-eyed and frozen as KIDZ enter with a large piece of silk cloth and flutter it in front of them to hide the scene. FRANKIE and IRVING exit behind cloth as MRS. NEWTON takes her place behind it.

SOUND: School bell. **SOUND CUE ENDS.**

When the KIDZ flutter the cloth away, MRS. NEWTON is standing behind it calling her class to order.

[Note: During this scene one of the KIDZ may act as the Custodian using a push broom to sweep up packing peanuts. This Custodian may appear whenever necessary in later scenes and may be a source of comic business.]

MRS. NEWTON: All right, class! Everyone in their seats.

(Some KIDZ sit as if at desks or on area furniture. Others sit with legs crossed in front of MRS. NEWTON at the front perimeter of the playing area. T-BONE and his GANG OF BONEZ enter and sit to one side, HELGA enters a little later than the others and all look at her as she sits on other side. MRS. NEWTON turns her back to draw on the board.)

All eyes ahead, please.

(T-BONE waves to HELGA, she ignores him.)

Today we will discuss the biological function of the brain...

(T-BONE shoots a spitball at HELGA who catches it in her eye. HELGA yelps. GANG OF BONEZ laughs.)

Thackeray Bowden, class has lasted all of 2 minutes... *(Turning.)* And already you are disturbing it.

T-BONE: You can call me T-Bone, Mrs. Newton. Everyone does.

MRS. NEWTON: And what is the purpose of your disturbance... *(With distaste.)* Mr. T-Bone?

T-BONE: Oh, no disturbance Mrs. Newton. Me and my buddies here...

MRS. NEWTON: *(Correcting.)* My buddies and I...

T-BONE: Yeah. Like I said me and my buddies here were just talking about the Science Fair. We're very excited about the Science Fair, Mrs. Newton. It sounds so very exciting.

MRS. NEWTON: And what kind of project are you and your team planning to present?

T-BONE: Uh. Project? Uh...

(BARBIE Q whispers in his ear.)

Volcano.

(BARBIE Q whispers again.)

Uh. Soap. Like Ivory soap. We're going to build it outta soap.

MRS. NEWTON: I see.

(OPTIONAL TRANSITIONS: FRANKIE #2 enters. IRVING #2 enters.

MR. KLONDIKE blows a whistle and enters. He wears pince-nez glasses and has a stiff arm. He talks with an undistinguishable but heavy accent. FRANKIE and IRVING also enter. KLONDIKE holds FRANKIE by the ear and lays his stiff arm on IRVING's head.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Pleeze to excuse a' me, Frau Newton!

MRS. NEWTON: Yes, Principal Klondike?

MR. KLONDIKE: I found zeez schtragglers schneaking in zee school after zee school eez already schtartet. Zeez boys are late! What doez zees boyz have to say for zemselvezzz?

FRANKIE & IRVING: Sorry, Mrs. Newton.

MR. KLONDIKE: I shall be buzzing zee mamas and zee papas at once! *(Blows whistle.)* And we shall see what zee punishment weel be!

MRS. NEWTON: That won't be necessary. I can handle this myself, Mr. Klondike.

MR. KLONDIKE: Diz eez a tough cookie teacher. Zer goot! *(To boys.)* Zee that you behave... or elsch!

(MR. KLONDIKE regards all, flips his stiff arm up to salute but gives himself a knock on the forehead. He blows his whistle in exasperation and exits.)

MRS. NEWTON: Sit.

(FRANKIE and IRVING take their seats by HELGA.)

Frankie, I often wonder how you make straight A's since you rarely participate in the learning process. And Irving we need to work on that C average, don't we?

(FRANKIE and IRVING hang their heads.)

Now as I was saying, today is a big day. Biology is a particular favorite of mine and I hope that some of you... *(Looks at T-Bone.)* ...will consider choosing it as a more ambitious theme for the Science Fair.

(MRS. NEWTON turns her back to the board as T-BONE harasses FRANKIE and IRVING with spitballs.)

Consider if you will the human brain. *(Drawing.)* We have the mid-brain, the temporal lobes... and as you can see we have the stem of the brain...

(T-BONE launches spitball.)

FRANKIE: Ow!

MRS. NEWTON: *(Turning.)* Mr. T-Bone?

(T-BONE and GANG snap instantly to attention with smiles on their faces.)

T-BONE: Please go on, Mrs. Newton. This is ever so interesting.

CLEAVER: Fascinating.

KNUCKLEHEAD: I am in rapture, Mrs. Newton!

MRS. NEWTON: Mmm. Yes. Well, boys and girls I have a surprise for you today. We have visitors who wish to make donations in the name of science. I'm sure you find them – rapturous. First we have Mr. Leonard Spots from the local zoo...

(N. M. SKULL is delighted and becomes an ape, hooting and scratching his arm pit.)

It will surprise you, Mr. Skull, to learn that your little performance is quite appropriate. *(Turns to door area and gestures.)* Welcome, Mr. Spots.

(MR. SPOTS enters. He wears tattered clothes with straw in his hair and is dirty from work in animal cages. MRS. NEWTON leads applause as he takes his place in front of the class and she sits down. MR. SPOTS is carrying a jar.)

And what have we here?

MR. SPOTS: Pickled monkey brain, missus.

(FRANKIE and IRVING exchange an amazed look.)

MRS. NEWTON: Please go on, Mr. Spots.

MR. SPOTS: Well, this here brain come from a monkey we liked okay at the zoo. He ate grapefruit and celery and the occasional Pop-Tart. This here monkey also liked to throw his stuff at us whenever we come around to feed him which to tell you the truth was not appreciated.

MRS. NEWTON: And didn't a scientist once discover that there was something unusual about this monkey?

MR. SPOTS: Oh that. Yeah, once a guy in a white coat come round and had him do a puzzle. Einstein here put the square peg in the square hole instead of the round hole which made the scientist think he was really smart so we called him Einstein. The monkey. Not the scientist.

MRS. NEWTON: And how did the monkey die, Mr. Spots?

MR. SPOTS: Oh, the usual way.

(MR. SPOTS mimes choking, catching his neck and sticking out his tongue. He sways this way and back until he chokes himself to death and falls on the floor, dead. He gives a last jerk of his legs as the final moment.)

MRS. NEWTON: I was hoping you'd tell us what was the *cause* of his death.

MR. SPOTS: Oh. Old age.

MRS. NEWTON: Thank you, Mr. Spots. That was very nice.

(MR. SPOTS stands to go.)

MR. SPOTS: You said it would be good for the kids and so I hope it was. Goodbye.

(MRS. NEWTON leads all in applause. MR. SPOTS bows elaborately, exits.)

MRS. NEWTON: Our next guest is a neighbor and a pillar of our proud community. Please be polite and welcome Mrs. Magillacutty.

(MRS. NEWTON goes to where MRS. MAGILLACUTTY is supposed to enter. No one is there. MRS. MAGILLACUTTY stands in the audience and waves to the rear of the house.)

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Hello, Dearie!

MRS. NEWTON: Oh, you'll have to excuse her. She a little nearsighted.

(MRS. NEWTON rushes to MRS. MAGILLACUTTY and steers her toward stage.)

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: *(Bops MRS. NEWTON with her stick.)* Unhand me you big brute!

MRS. NEWTON: Mrs. Magillacutty, it's Mrs. Newton.

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Oh. All right then.

(MRS. NEWTON helps her hobble on stage, leaning on a stick and carrying a jar. She squints and wears glasses with lenses thick as bottle bottoms.)

MRS. NEWTON: Go right a head, Mrs. Magillacutty.

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: My little Fluffy was a very nice little dog. He had a little black nose and two little eyes and he liked to eat his kibble at midnight. I would try to feed him in the morning and he always just stuck up his nose and acted like to say no I won't eat that kibble now because it's not midnight...

MRS. NEWTON: And what do we have here, Mrs. Magillacutty? *(Points to jar.)*

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: This is little Fluffy's brain. He wasn't a very smart dog I have to tell you. He would go outside and stand in the rain and I would say Fluffy why don't you come in out of the rain but he just wouldn't listen to a living soul...

MRS. NEWTON: And now you are letting him live again by donating him to science.

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Well, I hope he does somebody some good for once. I always did like children. *(Looks at T-Bone)* Most of them.

(MRS. MAGILLACUTTY hobbles out, exiting, as MRS. NEWTON leads applause. FRANKIE is overwhelmed and stands to applaud!)

FRANKIE: Bravo! Bravo!

MRS. NEWTON: Well! Isn't that refreshing? It's quite gratifying to see a child take such interest in biology.

FRANKIE: So what's next, Mrs. Newton? Are we going to bring them back to life?

MRS. NEWTON: Beg your pardon?

IRVING: He means the brains, Mrs. Newton. What are we going to do with them now?

MRS. NEWTON: Well, we're going to dissect them, of course.

(FRANKIE and IRVING look at each other in alarm. T-BONE shoots spitball at HELGA who squeals.)

Helga!

HELGA: *(Points to T-Bone.)* He did it!

MRS. NEWTON: Mr. T-Bone. We will be looking forward to your future volcano and I expect all of you and your team to get to work immediately. Frankie and Irving you will be working with Helga on your project.

(SOUND CUE #4: School bell. SOUND CUE ENDS.)

RIBEYE: No way!

MRS. NEWTON: Class dismissed.

(MRS. NEWTON gathers papers and exits.)

T-BONE: Congratulations, Helga. Now you are officially a nerd.

(GANG OF BONEZ snicker and laugh as they walk thuggishly, exiting. KIDZ stand, some put back furniture to end classroom scene as other KIDZ deliver narration to audience. FRANKIE, IRVING and HELGA stand looking at each other warily.)

MEGAN: Helga was the new girl in town.

SHAWNA: Nobody knew much about her...

ABIGAIL: But they did know one thing...

ZACH: She was the principal's daughter.

(KIDZ exit or sit to the side of the stage.)

FRANKIE & IRVING: *(Horried.)* The principal's daughter?

HELGA: Yah. He eez my step-fasser. I never knew my musser. Mr. Klondike he raise me from young chicken.

FRANKIE: Look. Helga. I don't think this is for you. Igor and I -- I mean Irving and I -- are used to working alone. You know how it is. So nice meeting you and all.

(FRANKIE starts to go. HELGA drops her head.)

IRVING: Hey, Frankie.

HELGA: Eet eez all right. Diz eez always za way. I sink I go practice violin now.

IRVING: Violin?

HELGA: Yes, I love to play za violin.

FRANKIE: Hmmm.

HELGA: Eet eez good for playing za music.

FRANKIE: A violin you say? Hmmm. *(Strokes his chin, becoming mad scientist again.)*

IRVING: Frankie...

FRANKIE: Grab your fiddle, Helga. We've got work to do.

(FRANKIE takes off, marching with purpose, exiting. HELGA gets violin case, IRVING grabs her wrist.)

IRVING: *(Calling after FRANKIE.)* Hey, Frankie, wait up!

(They exit as...)

SOUND CUE #5: *Transition music which turns into sound of train pulling into station, then changes to organ, thunder, etc.*

KIDZ remove the cloths from furniture and get everything in place for the laboratory. The ping pong table has a long blob lying on it, but we can't see that now because it is covered by a cloth. Bicycle, other household electrical items are present. There is a big boom box nearby.

SOUND: *Organ music! Thunder! Lightning!*

*FRANKIE, IRVING, HELGA enter with their hands reaching out, can't see because it is dark. **SOUND CUE ENDS.***)

FRANKIE: Drat! This storm has knocked the power out! Helga! Igor! Flip the switch on the generator!

IRVING: *(In Igor mode.)* Which switch, master?

HELGA: I don't zee za switch.

FRANKIE: There by the door! Flip it, I say! Flip it!

(IRVING and HELGA feel around in the dark.)

IRVING: Oh here it is!

(IRVING flips switch on boom box.

SOUND CUE #6: *Excruciating sound of electricity zinging and crackling! They all react as if electricity is zinging through their bodies. Suddenly it stops. **SOUND CUE ENDS.***)

HELGA: I can see!

FRANKIE: Yes! I had the generator installed for just this occasion! It is essential to our experiment! Igor, I have been reading this book!

(FRANKIE hands book to IRVING.)

IRVING: "How I Did It." By Doctor Frankenstein.

FRANKIE: It is all clear to me now! It is as if a light has been turned on and the secrets of life have been revealed! The answer is right here, Igor, right here!

IRVING: *(Reads.)* "After days and nights of incredible labour and fatigue, I succeeded in discovering the cause of generation and life; nay, more, I became myself capable of bestowing animation upon lifeless matter." -- Uh, Frankie, how much lay-bore are we talking about here, cause if I miss piano practice again...

FRANKIE: Everything else is irrelevant now! Don't you see? I have discovered the secret! It's right there in Frankenstein's book! When the negative poles and the positive poles are reversed and discombobulated one can calculate the resistance, transversal and infrastructure of inert tissue and create life! Do you hear me? *(Dances about in ecstasy.)* Life! Life! Life!

HELGA: Vat eez zee crazy boy saying?

IRVING: Yes, master, stop beating around the bush.

FRANKIE: If my calculations are correct – and I’m sure they are! – soon we will see that thing over there become animated with life! Life! Life!

IRVING: That thing over... *(Goes to the table.)* Here?

(IRVING pulls off cover, something long and body-like is on the ping pong table. HELGA screams and faints into IRVING’s arms.)

IRVING: Where did you get... that, master?

FRANKIE: You don’t want to know.

IRVING: I really, really think I do.

HELGA: *(Recovering.)* I sink I do too.

FRANKIE: No, no you don’t.

IRVING: Frankie, where’d you get this... thing?

FRANKIE: *(Tries to cover his mouth.)* Freezer.

IRVING: Say again?

FRANKIE: From the freezer okay? Mom had stuff in there. For Thanksgiving.

(IRVING and HELGA look more closely at thing.)

IRVING: Like a turkey?

HELGA: Ah. I zee eets leettle legs.

IRVING: And this stuff right here?

FRANKIE: My uncle’s a hunter okay?

HELGA: It looks like ditz eez a gentleman, yah?

IRVING: I really think that’s a stretch.

FRANKIE: Lifeless matter! Inert tissue! Don’t you guys read any comic books or go to any movies or anything?

HELGA: Ditz eez funny movie.

FRANKIE: Only one thing is missing!

IRVING: And what is it, master?

FRANKIE: A brain.

IRVING: I don't like where this is going.

FRANKIE: I need you two to break into school and get me that monkey's brain.

IRVING: And why don't *you* do it, master?

FRANKIE: Because... Because! I have to stay here and... read the rest of this book! *(He plops down and starts to read in earnest.)*

HELGA: *(Sympathetic, to IRVING.)* He has zoh much to read.

FRANKIE: Hurry now! The destiny of mankind is in your hands, my faithful assistants!

(IRVING mumbles "... faithful assistants..." as KIDZ waft in a cloth that covers the scene. FRANKIE and IRVING are covered by the cloth.)

OPTIONAL TRANSITION: *IRVING #3 enters.*

IRVING steps out from behind cloth, entering, holding flashlight, peering around.)

IRVING: *(Gesturing for HELGA who has not yet emerged.)* Walk this way.

(IRVING lifts his knees in an exaggerated "tiptoe". HELGA enters and imitates, following.)

SOUND CUE #7: *Tiptoeing music.*

IRVING and HELGA exit the playing area and tiptoe up the aisle into audience, as KIDZ enter and talk to audience.)

ABIGAIL: It was a dark and stormy night...

(SOUND: Thunder! Lightning! SOUND CUE ENDS.)

IRVING: *(Looking up.)* I'll be glad when the rainy season is over.

DARRYL: The schoolyard was black as night...

SHAWNA: Mrs. Newton's science room was as silent as a tomb...

(JAYDEN enters carrying brain jar, kneels and holds it above his head. MEGAN enters with brain jar and kneels beside JAYDEN, holds jar above her head. There are signs on the jars. IRVING AND HELGA have circled around behind the audience and up the other aisle. They are reaching the playing area or stage as jars get in place.)

HELGA: If my fusser catches us our bottoms will be like lawn.

IRVING: Lawn?

HELGA: You know...

IRVING: Oh, grass! *(Sighs.)* Great.

(IRVING and HELGA tiptoe up to jars.)

HELGA: Here we are! This one says...

JAYDEN: Fluffy!

IRVING: And this one says...

MEGAN: Einstein!

IRVING: Quick, Helga. Grab Einstein's brain and let's get out of here.

(HELGA takes Einstein jar and they begin to tiptoe away. T-BONE and GANG of BONEZ enter and sneak up on them from behind.)

T-BONE: Boo.

(IRVING and HELGA scream!)

Well, well, well. What have we here?

IRVING: Hah! T-Bone! Hi! *(Nerdily.)* Waddup?

BARBIE Q: Whatcha got there, kids?

CLEAVER: Looks like you finally got some brains. Get it?

(CLEAVER elbows buddies, GANG OF BONEZ snicker and groan.)

KNUCKLEHEAD: Looks like a grab from the lab.

N. M. SKULL: Never figured you for a life a crime.

REDEYE: *(To HELGA.)* That makes you an accomplice.

HELGA: No, no. You see my fusser he send me. He want dizz brain.

T-BONE: He does, does he?

HELGA: Yaw. He vant dizz brain very much. I must take. I hurry.

BARBIE Q: Say, your old man isn't around here is he?

HELGA: Yah. He eez right over zere in zee bushes. He like to hide for zee fun.
You know... Ha-ha.

T-BONE: All right guys. Clear out.

BARBIE Q: You don't buy that story do you, T-Bone?

T-BONE: One more demerit and I'm expelled.

GANG OF BONEZ: Aw... Wuss! Come on! *(Adlib more...)*

(IRVING whistles.)

HELGA: Vat vaz dat? Vaz dat heez leettle wheeztle?

(GANG OF BONEZ look around in terror. IRVING whistles again.)

T-BONE: Ruuuuuunnnnnnnnn!

(GANG OF BONEZ run exiting up the aisles and out of performance room. IRVING and HELGA give a great sigh of relief. IRVING lifts his hand.)

IRVING: High-five!

(HELGA does a high-five back and drops the jar.)

SOUND CUE #8: Glass breaking. **SOUND CUE ENDS.**

They groan in despair. IRVING picks up brain and holds it up. It looks pathetic, he throws it away, over his shoulder as JAYDEN holding the FLUFFY brain jar starts to bark.)

JAYDEN: Ruff! Ruff! Ruff!

IRVING: Fluffy!

(IRVING and HELGA rush to Fluffy brain jar, grab it and take off running, exiting. MEGAN enters and sees brain, picks it up and yips, "Yuck!" She speaks to audience.)

MEGAN: The next day when Mrs. Newton saw that her jars were gone...

(MEGAN holds yucky brain out as she exits.

OPTIONAL TRANSITION: MRS. NEWTON #2 enters.

*MRS. NEWTON and MR. KLONDIKE enter from opposite sides.
MRS. NEWTON marches up to MR. KLONDIKE.)*

MRS. NEWTON: Mr. Klondike, I understand that this is your first year and that you have some adjusting to do...

MR. KLONDIKE: Adjuhzzing? Vat eez diz adjuhzzing?

MRS. NEWTON: It is your responsibility to see that the grounds are properly secured...

MR. KLONDIKE: Vat eez eet you vant? You vant your brainz back? You vant to zee zee brainz in zee jars put back on zee shelf?

MRS. NEWTON: That is exactly what I vant... I mean want.

MR. KLONDIKE: Very well. I shall zeek out zee veellan! I shall get you zee brainz. Okay? Capeesh? Happy now?

MRS. NEWTON: Very well.

MR. KLONDIKE: Very, very well! Zere goot!

(OPTIONAL TRANSITION: FRANKIE #3 enters.

MR. KLONDIKE blows whistle, salutes and hits himself in the head. MRS. NEWTON and MR. KLONDIKE turn around and exit in opposite directions. KIDZ enter and flutter silk in front of scene. FRANKIE, IRVING and HELGA enter and are in place as the KIDZ flutter cloth away.)

SHAWNA: Meanwhile back at the la-bore-atory

FRANKIE: The brain is in place and my preparations are almost complete!

(HELGA and IRVING hand IRVING three big plugs.)

Plug. Plug.

(IRVING plugs them into the body-like thing on the table: One in the head, one on the side and runs to other side.)

And plug!

(He runs around with cords and plugs them into the boom box. He rubs his hands together with delight.)

Soon the world will know the impossible! The secret of man's existence! A mystery so wondrous and magnificent it will make the world dizzy to look upon it. Dizzy I tell you! Dizzy! Dizzy! *(Dances around.)* We saved mankind from the terrible jaws of death! *(He staggers and almost falls.)*

HELGA: Master, are you all right?

FRANKIE: My head burns with the elation of discovery! I cannot be expected to act normally while processing such enlightenment as this!

HELGA: *(Tenderly touching his forehead.)* Truly, Frankie, you are a genius.

FRANKIE: *(Modestly.)* Thank you, Helga. I appreciate that.

IRVING: So what's next, genius?

FRANKIE: First we set all the instruments just so.

(FRANKIE runs around and adjusts various knobs etc in the area. It doesn't matter what stuff he touches, he must only do something to "turn it on".)

The temperature must be adjusted to its solar equivalent and its finite molecular specifications!

(Runs to turn bicycle wheels.)

Then of course all the cyclical wheelie-type gadgets and doodads must be turned to their maximum setting! And now for the koo-day-graw, the crescendo if you will, the pinnacle of perfection! Igor, flip the switch!

IRVING: Who me?

FRANKIE: Do not fail me now my most trusted assistant. Now is the time for all

good men to move forward with courage and do as I say. You will not regret it my friend, for this moment will live in history as the height of science's greatest achievement! Igor! FLIP THE SWITCH!

IRVING: No way. That thing's dangerous.

FRANKIE: *(Clenching his teeth with anger and patience.)* Very well. Helga! Listen to me very carefully. Do as I say and never look back! Helga! Flip the switch!

HELGA: Yahvo, master.

(HELGA goes to switch and flips it.)

SOUND CUE #9: *Electricity!*

FRANKIE, IRVING and HELGA react as if a current is zapping through their bodies. They stiff walk around with the electrical current zinging through them until sound ends and they drop limp from exhaustion gasping for breath, coughing. When he recovers FRANKIE runs to the thing on the table. SOUND CUE ENDS.)

FRANKIE: This is the moment my friends. *(He pulls out plugs and peels back covering.)* This is the moment of supreme and existential truth! Monster! I command you to live!

(FRANKIE stands pointing toward MONSTER, looks away as if it so sure that he need not look. At last he looks, nothing.)

Monster, listen to me now and listen to me carefully. I command you to... live!

(Nothing.)

Live!

(Nothing. FRANKIE goes to pound on the thing's chest.)

Live! Live I tell you! What are you doing, Monster? You're ruining everything! Live! Live! *(He begins to collapse.)* Live... live... *(Starts to sob...)* You big dumb thing what's the matter with you...live... *(Sobs.)*

(HELGA and IRVING look at each other. HELGA goes to FRANKIE.)

HELGA: You must come away now, master.

IRVING: She's right. Come on now. It's not the end of the world...

FRANKIE: He's not living is he?

(FRANKIE tearfully looks to them, wipes his nose.)

The secrets of the universe... sift through my fingers... like the sands of time... lost, lost, lost...

(FRANKIE cries for a time, finally HELGA and IRVING try to pry him away.)

IRVING: *(Sadly, putting arm over him.)* Come on, Frankie. Let's go to my house. Mom's making mac and cheese.

HELGA: *(Tragically, sweetly to FRANKIE.)* Mac and cheese eez goot, no?

IRVING: Come on...

(FRANKIE sobs and babbles as they lead him away, exiting.)

Nothing happens for a long time -- so long the audience thinks someone forgot their cue...

Slowly, a hand appears from under the covering.

SOUND CUE #10: *Monster theme music.*

It wiggles its fingers. The hand reaches up to pull off the covering. Slowly, slowly it sits up.

The MONSTER is weirdly like the one in the movies but his head is lopsided, the screws and zippers are in the wrong places and one of his ears is an animal ear. His bad arm is a big turkey leg. His clothes are busted out kids' clothes, a t-shirt and hoodie, colorful jams shorts. He gets down from the table. One of the MONSTER'S legs is a claw like a bear and the other is a hoof like an elk. He looks around. He stands triumphantly until music ends.

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

MONSTER: Mmmmmmm....

(He goes to the boom box and grunts as he looks at it. He pulls on the switch.

SOUND CUE #11: *Electricity!*

Electricity surges and zaps thru him as he happily dances around the laboratory, yipping and yapping at the thrills. When electricity stops, MONSTER smiles, then he suddenly crouches like an animal and throws back his head and howls.)

Owwwwhoooooooooooo!

(MONSTER pounds his chest as...

SOUND: *Monster music.*

MONSTER holds out his arms, FRANKENSTEIN style and stomps away.

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

MONSTER: Mmmmm....

(He exits. Next sequence of scenes may take place to the side of laboratory without striking or covering that part of the set. SHAWNA enters.)

SHAWNA: The next morning it was all over the news. *(Exits.)*

(ZACH enters and pops on a clip-on bowtie becomes news anchor. ABIGAIL enters with microphone, becomes reporter.)

ZACH: Breaking news this morning comes from downtown Snoozeville where it seems a creature is on the loose and terrorizing local citizens. Here to report on the latest is News Five's Abigail Jackson.

ABIGAIL: Thank you Zach. Here with me is Mr. Leonard Spots, groundskeeper for 26 years with the Snoozeville Zoo. Mr. Spots what can you tell me about the news that is being reported this morning?

MR. SPOTS: I seen the dang thing crossing the street right there before my eyes!

ABIGAIL: And what can you tell us about the animal's appearance?

MR. SPOTS: Well it seemed kind a slow like and it walked a little like this...

(MR. SPOTS acts like MONSTER.)

ABIGAIL: And can you give our viewers an idea of the size of the animal?

MR. SPOTS: It was big! Big!

ABIGAIL: And what species of animal was it in your opinion?

MR. SPOTS: Like nothing I've seen in my life time! Weren't like nothing we got at the zoo I can tell you for dang sure.

ABIGAIL: *(Turning to camera, audience.)* And there you have it. Nobody knows a thing about what in the heck this dang thing is. Back to you, Zach.

(ABIGAIL and MR. SPOTS exit.)

ZACH: In other news there's been a another pile up on the highway during rush hour and curious citizens want to know....

(JAYDEN enters as ZACH keeps talking, walking, as if the news is still going on until he is gone, exiting.)

JAYDEN: But across town there was one person who did not own a TV...
(Exits.)

(SOUND CUE #12: Doorbell. MRS. MAGILLACUTTY hobbles in, feeling her way around the room.)

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Ding-a-ling. Ding-a-ling. Always with the ding-a-ling.
(Picks up phone receiver.) Hello? Hello?

(MONSTER enters and stands at the "door" pushing bell.)

Fiddlesticks.

(MRS. MAGILLACUTTY fumbles for her glasses, puts on, still can hardly find her way to the door. MONSTER rings bell again.)

(SOUND: Doorbell again. SOUND CUE ENDS.)

I'm coming, I'm coming. Hold your ponies.

(MRS. MAGILLACUTTY opens the "door".)

Well, hello, Dearie. Are you collecting for the band uniforms again?
Seems every day they collect for the lousy band uniforms...

MONSTER: Mmmmmm...

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Ah! You're hungry are you?

MONSTER: Mmmmmm...

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Does this look like a diner to you? Is there a sign out there that says this is some kind of restaurant?

MONSTER: Mmmmmm...

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Awful cheeky of you I will say but come on in. There's chicken soup in the kitchen...

(MONSTER stands without moving.)

Well, do you want chicken soup or not?

(MONSTER comes in.)

Sit down.

(MONSTER sits.)

No, not there, that's Fluffy's chair. *(Remembers.)* Oh. Never mind. *(Goes to kitchen.)* Now, I know what you young kids like and that's some nice chicken soup. I just gotta heat up the stove over here. I've had this stove for 51 years and my son he keeps saying mother would you throw that old thing out I can't stand to look at it. But I always say it suits me just fine. So let me just light the pilot light here...

(She strikes a match.)

MONSTER: Mmmmmmmmm!

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Only problem is I don't see so good anymore. Could you help me just a minute with the pilot light?

(She brings match to MONSTER's face.)

MONSTER: Mmmmmmm?

(He touches it.)

Moooowwwwwwww! Mowwwwwww! Moweeeeeeeeee!

(MONSTER runs out the door. Exits up the aisle.)

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Lousy rude kids. *(Calls after him.)* No chicken soup for you big dumb lousy kid! And don't come back! *(Hobbles away, muttering.)* Never did like children.

(MRS. MAGILLACUTTY exits.)

DARRYL: Later that day...

(OPTIONAL TRANSITIONS: IRVING #4 enters, HELGA #2 enters.

HELGA, IRVING and FRANKIE enter. FRANKIE is inconsolable.)

HELGA: Do not take eet zoh hard, master.

IRVING: Yeah, we'll think of something else for the Science Fair, Frankie.

FRANKIE: My hopes are dashed! My career is over! How can I go on? Turn on the lights will you?

IRVING: Not this again.

FRANKIE: It's dark in here, I can't see a thing. Flip the switch!

HELGA: I'll do eet!

(HELGA flips the switch. IRVING starts to yell expecting a surge of electricity. But nothing happens, no surge. They look around, see empty ping pong table. HELGA screams!)

The monster! Heez gone!

(FRANKIE runs to table.)

FRANKIE: And so it goes. The scientist is vindicated at last. All the world laughed at his vision but... my hypothesis is proven correct! Oh, ye of little faith! The Monster is alive! He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!

(FRANKIE pounds on table in triumph.)

HELGA: Eet eez miracle.

FRANKIE: No my dear, Helga. There are no miracles in this world. There is only...science!

IRVING: Where in the heck do you think he went?

(They look out toward audience.)

HELGA: *(Dramatically.)* He eez somewhere. Out zere. In zee dark.

(SOUND CUE #13: Organ! Thunder! Lightning! Sound turns into Monster music.

KIDZ flutter cloth in front of laboratory, FRANKIE, IRVING and HELGA exit behind it. KIDZ move into audience. MONSTER enters from behind the audience and trudges down the aisle toward the stage. KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ have entered and are stationed in the audience. They scream as MONSTER walks nearby.

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

JAYDEN: There he is! The monster!

(Screams!)

MEGAN: Hideous creature!

SHAWNA: What is he? Man or beast?

ZACH: Heaven help us!

ABIGAIL: We're all going to die!

(All KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ are screaming, they take off running in many directions, exiting, as MONSTER slowly trudges towards stage.

FRANKIE, IRVING and HELGA enter from side, sticking heads out, seeing monster. FRANKIE pushes HELGA out in front of them.)

HELGA: Oh!

(Trying not to alert the MONSTER, FRANKIE talks quietly, through his teeth, while the lightning and thunder get louder – too loud.

SOUND CUE #14: Lots of thunder, enchanting violin music.)

FRANKIE: *(Through his teeth.)* Helga, get your violin.

HELGA: *(Cupping her ear.)* Vaz zat? Vere have I been? Why right here, master.

FRANKIE: I said, get your violin.

(MONSTER slowly advances.)

HELGA: Have I been to Berlin? Oh, no master, you are confused I am not from zee German place...

FRANKIE: I said. Get. Your. Fiddle.

HELGA: A riddle? Oh, goot, I like riddles!

(IRVING runs and gets violin.)

IRVING: Helga! Your violin!

HELGA: Oh!

FRANKIE: Play.

HELGA: Say? I didn't zay any zing.

FRANKIE & IRVING: *PLAY!*

HELGA: Oh.

(HELGA begins to play.)

SOUND: *Entrancing violin music.*

MONSTER stops to listen. FRANKIE and IRVING get a net.)

MONSTER: Huh?

(MONSTER begins to enjoy music. MONSTER begins to dance, sway and lose himself in the music. FRANKIE and IRVING are holding net up, running back and forth as MONSTER sways. They are almost ready to drop over MONSTER...)

HELGA suddenly stops playing. MONSTER moves away.

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

HELGA: Zat is all I know of zat one, master. Would you like me to play anozer one?

FRANKIE: *(Trying to smile and not be angry.)* That would be nice.

HELGA: Okay.

(SOUND CUE #15: *Violin: "Turkey in the Straw."*

HELGA plays merrily as MONSTER tries to understand the change. Decides he likes this too and dances a quick jig which makes it harder for

*FRANKIE and IRVING to place the net over him. At last the song ends. They bring the net over MONSTER. He cries out. **SOUND CUE ENDS.**)*

MONSTER: Mmmmmm! Mmmmmm!

(FRANKIE, IRVING wrestle the MONSTER to the ground, as KIDZ bring silk cloth over them to hide the scene.)

ABIGAIL: Back at the la-bore-atory...

(KIDZ whoosh away cloth and exit. MONSTER is on ping pong table, HELGA and IRVING take off net and hold each arm. MONSTER struggles, upset.)

MONSTER: Mmmm.

FRANKIE: Now you listen to me, you monster, you! You've got to calm down!

(HELGA shushes him, touches his forehead, he calms down.)

You need to make people like you... Nay, love you! Or...

IRVING: Or?

MONSTER: Mm?

FRANKIE: They will destroy you! Everyone destroys what they can't understand! But you, Monster. You are a good boy, a good monster.

(Takes IRVING'S side and lays his head on MONSTER's shoulder.)

A sweet boy... a gentle boy...

(When MONSTER is completely calm, FRANKIE hops up and moves downstage. He speaks confidentially to HELGA.)

Helga! You must get your father to start the Science Fair. Now that our experiment is public, the cat is out of the bag! We must show the world what we have accomplished! Or soon they will come for him and...
(Makes cutting gesture at his throat.)

HELGA: Yes, master!

(HELGA runs off, exiting. FRANKIE turns to MONSTER.)

FRANKIE: Now for your dance lesson.

(KIDZ flutter silk cloth again to hide the scene. They attached the cloth so that it looks like the backdrop for Science Fair. Behind it FRANKIE, IRVING and MONSTER slip away, exiting. MR. KLONDIKE marches in blowing his whistle. MRS. NEWTON enters hurrying behind him.)

MRS. NEWTON: Principal Klondike, this is highly irregular.

MR. KLONDIKE: You hear what I zay! I am schpeaking zee English am I not?

MRS. NEWTON: But sir, the students may not be ready...

MR. KLONDIKE: Wat doz zis matter zee schtudents all zee time! We have a big trouble, we have a criziz we have a vat you call a cock-a-doodle-doo! Nozing will calm zee peoplez down like zee big 'a festive ole fasschion zcience fair right now hurry, hurry!

(MR. KLONDIKE marches off blowing whistle, exiting. KIDZ enter quickly and set up for fair, rushing. DARRYL and JAYDEN rush in with sign and easel.)

DARRYL: Mrs. Newton! Where do you want this?

MRS. NEWTON: Right over there!

(GANG of BONEZ enter, lumbering, carrying their project with a cover over it.)

BARBIE Q: You want I should put this where?

MRS. NEWTON: Over there!

(OPTIONAL TRANSITION: FRANKIE #4 enters.

FRANKIE runs in entering, out of breath.)

Oh, Frankie. I'm so sorry for the rush! I know how much this means to you.

FRANKIE: No problem, Mrs. Newton. I'm ready.

MRS. NEWTON: Good. *(To everyone.)* Sit! Sit! Everyone, please!

(MR. KLONDIKE enters, marches in and stands in front of the preparations. KIDZ, GANG OF BONEZ and others sit in actual audience and along the perimeters of playing area. MR. SPOTS and MRS. MAGILLACUTTY join the audience and sit down.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Ladeez and gentlemen, it is pleasure for me to be zaying hello on ziz zee day of the zee Science Fair! Eet ezz very important for you all to zit back on zee chairz and kizz your troublez goodbye! Zere is no monster in zee town or zee school or anywhere nozing to worry about everyzing ezz very goot! Prozeed!

(MR. KLONDIKE blows his whistle and sits down and MRS. NEWTON stands.)

MRS. NEWTON: Megan, would you pass these programs out?

(MRS. NEWTON gives MEGAN papers to distribute. MEGAN may give them to actual audience members for later participation. Another of the KIDZ may help her.)

Welcome everyone. Students. Parents. *(She gestures to actual audience.)* Distinguished members of our community. This is a very special day because everyone has worked very hard...

(MR. KLONDIKE blows his whistle.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Enough of zat! On wiz zee show!

MRS. NEWTON: Of course. First up we have the Thackeray Bowden team.

(T-BONE and GANG stand and remove cover from volcano project. It is a large lumpy blob on a board.)

T-BONE: So this is our volcano. We were gonna make it out of soap.

CLEAVER: But then we decided to use play-doh instead. Because like, doh!
(Hits his forehead.) Doh! Get it?

(GANG OF BONEZ jab each other and snicker. They catch MRS. NEWTON's disapproving look and stop.)

KNUCKLEHEAD: Uh. Then we put a coke can right here...

N. M. SKULL: And we made like it was a mountain or something. There's some white paint here. That's for snow.

RIBEYE: So then you mix some baking soda up with vinegar and you pour it in here.

BARBIE Q: And then it blows up like a volcano.

CLEAVER: Cool.

(RIBEYE pours mixture into volcano. Nothing happens.)

KNUCKLEHEAD: Well, we didn't test it or anything. He said it would blow up.

RIBEYE: It's supposed to catch fire or something. Maybe it needs more.

(RIBEYE pours in more. Everyone looks at it for a long time. Totally nothing happens.)

MRS. NEWTON: Well! Not all experiments are a success. Can you talk a little about your control variables, observation measurements and result findings?

(GANG OF BONEZ look at each other and shrug.)

N. M. SKULL: Nope.

MRS. NEWTON: *(Sighs.)* Thank you, team. Please take your seats. *(Looks at list.)* Mr. Stein?

(FRANKIE stands and walks to stand before cloth. He strikes an elegant pose. As he speaks IRVING, MONSTER and HELGA take their places behind cloth, ready to be revealed by FRANKIE.)

FRANKIE: Ahem. Ladies and gentlemen... we live in cynical times. Often when we learn of something new and different we pooh-pooh it. We dismiss what we cannot understand...

MRS. NEWTON: Mr. Stein, we have only 10 minutes allotted for each project.

FRANKIE: Scientists around the world have striven to learn the secret of immortality. It may amaze, nay, even shock you to learn that my team and I have brought illumination to this very subject. Can life be created from inanimate tissue? Ladies and gentlemen... I give you... the creature!

(FRANKIE pulls away cloth. Audience gasps! HELGA stands with her violin under her chin, poised to play. IRVING has an arm looped through the MONSTER'S. All have on straw hats. They turn to the audience and smile, revealing that each has one blacked out tooth in front. Helga draws her bow.)

SOUND CUE #16: *Violin tuning up, preparing to play.)*

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you love square dancing as much as he does.

(SOUND: *Violin: Turkey in the Straw.*

HELGA plays, IRVING begins square dancing with MONSTER. FRANKIE stands and claps.)

IRVING: Yaw-hoo!

MONSTER: *(Enjoying.)* Raw-rooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

(FRANKIE is so delighted he joins them dancing. They are having a great time swinging each other around – MONSTER loves it -- as the audience becomes horrified. After a while they speak up.

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

JAYDEN: Hey! That's the monster!

(All KIDZ and others murmur: "The monster! The monster!")

MEGAN: It's that creature I saw on TV!

MONSTER: Raw-rooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

MR. SPOTS: Hey, that's that dang thing I saw crossing the street!

SHAWNA: He's been terrorizin' us all!

ZACH: Our children aren't safe!

T-BONE: I'll knock that thing to kingdom come!

(KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ take the programs that have been handed out and wad them up, start throwing at MONSTER. They encourage other actual audience members to wad their papers and throw.)

ABIGAIL: Take that you big ugly monster!

DARRYL: Yeah! We don't need your kind around here!

(MONSTER reacts to all the balls coming at him.)

MONSTER: Raw-rooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

(Everyone rears back in fear. FRANKIE sees that MONSTER is in distress and gets worried.)

repeats.)

Fluffy?

SOUND CUE #18: *Organ! Thunder! Lightning!*)

MR. KLONDIKE: Everybody! Run for your livezzz!

(Everybody screams and runs. KIDZ, GANG OF BONEZ and all others exit in many directions. Except for MRS. NEWTON who stands stock still staring at the four on stage. SOUND CUE ENDS.)

FRANKIE: Come on, you guys! Back to the laboratory! Hurry!

(FRANKIE, HELGA, IRVING and MONSTER run, exiting, stumbling as they go. MRS. NEWTON stands and rubs her chin, thinking. Calmly, she exits. KIDZ enter and tear down Science Fair sign, revealing FRANKIE, HELGA, IRVING and MONSTE, now in laboratory. They throw MONSTER on the table. All are frazzled and out of breath.)

Does anybody have a little something to tell me?

IRVING: Who us?

FRANKIE: Yes, you.

HELGA: All diz noize give me zee headache.

FRANKIE: Not that! I mean the brain! The brain! Does anybody have anything to tell me about the brain?

HELGA: Fluffy's brain?

FRANKIE: *Fluffy's* brain? I thought we used Einstein's brain!

IRVING: Okay, okay. We dropped Einstein's brain. Who cares?

FRANKIE: Who cares? Who cares? *(He almost has a mini-nervous breakdown until he calms himself, speaks calmly.)* All right! All right! Plan B! Back to the drawing board! Let me think! *(Paces and thinks.)* There is only one thing to do.

IRVING: And it is?

FRANKIE: Brain transference. It is a most rare and complex procedure but you have left me no choice! Igor! Fix the super-duper transmorgamister upon my head.

IRVING: Not the super-duper transmorgamister...

FRANKIE: Do as I say!

(IRVING rushes to put silly aluminum foil helmet on FRANKIE's head. KIDZ and GANG OF BONEZ and others who become VILLAGERS yell from off stage or from out in the audience.)

VILLAGERS: Tear down the door! Get out of way! Kill the monster! Plaster the master! *(They make lots of noise: "Raw! Raw! Raw!")*

HELGA: Master, zee villagers are at zee gate!

FRANKIE: We must work quickly. Helga, place the double clonifying transmorgamister on the Monster's head!

(HELGA gets identical helmet and runs to the MONSTER. She whips off the cover and he cries pitifully.)

MONSTER: Mmmmm... Moooooo...

HELGA: Master, the poor monster ezz very upset...

FRANKIE: Straighten up, man! This is no time to loose heart! Place the transmorgamister on the Monster's head.

(HELGA places the helmet on MONSTER'S head. MONSTER whimpers like a pup.)

Now hand me the jumper cables.

IRVING: Oh, Frankie, no. Not the jumper cables.

FRANKIE: Hand me the jumper cables!

(HELGA runs to the cables and slaps them into FRANKIE's waiting palm. He attaches one end to his own helmet.)

Now attach the transferral device to the transmorgamister on the Monster's head!

(She does as IRVING and MONSTER groan.)

Now go to the generator!

(HELGA runs to it.)

That package has been traveling the world since the dawning of time, Frankie. It's like a fruitcake at Christmas. Even Doctor Von Frankenstein received such a package. The book?

(IRVING runs to get it and gives it to her.)

"How I Did It." *(Holds it to her heart, smiling.)* I remember reading this under the covers with a flashlight. Ah! Those were happy days!

(Sudden noise from the VILLAGERS. MR. KLONDIKE enters breaking in with VILLAGERS at his back. They are shaking their fists in the air. MONSTER hides.)

VILLAGERS: We want the monster! Give us the monster! The Monster!

(MR. KLONDIKE blows his whistle and enters. HELGA hides.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Ah-ha! Eet eez just as I schpected. You are in zee cahootz!

(T-BONE enters with GANG behind him.)

T-BONE: There he is! That's the kid I'm telling you about, Principal Klondike!

BARBIE Q: We saw 'em sneaking around the school!

CLEAVER: Caught 'em red handed!

KNUCKLEHEAD: They were making off with the brains!

MR. KLONDIKE: Making off wiz zee brainz were we? Now we know zee game you are up to! And where ezz za beast wiz the schtupid brainz?

(MRS. NEWTON goes to where he is hiding and calls sweetly to him as if to pet dog.)

MRS. NEWTON: Come on, boy. It's all right.

(All VILLAGERS rear back in terror, they give a collective gasp! MONSTER comes out whimpering. He goes to MRS. NEWTON who pets him. He snuggles to her.)

Good boy.

MONSTER: *(Happily.)* Mmmmmm. Mmmmmm.

MR. KLONDIKE: Everybody schtay back! Everybody muzz schtay safe!

MRS. NEWTON: That's what I'm trying to tell you Mr. Klondike. Everyone is safe. This monster would not hurt a fly.

MR. KLONDIKE: I do not care about zee fliez!

MRS. NEWTON: You see, Frankie here is a very good student.

FRANKIE: I have an exemplary record!

MRS. NEWTON: *(Shoots FRANKIE a disapproving look.)* A little egotistical perhaps. But his intentions were very good I assure you, Mr. Klondike. You see...

(SOUND CUE #19: Sappy music that sounds a little scratchy like an old movie.

MRS. NEWTON delivers obligatory soliloquy.)

Science is not just a subject. It is a calling that sings in the heart of every true student of the world and all of its many mysteries. Many are driven by a quest not unlike that of Lewis and Clark who forged a path into the great unknown. Frankie Stein here reminds me of myself at his age...

(MR. KLONDIKE whistles. Music abruptly ends, we may even hear the needle scratch on record.

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Schtoppen zee clap trap! I want zee big dumb zing out of my school, out of town on zee ten foot pole!

(HELGA runs to him.)

HELGA: Oh papa! Please don't zend him away. We worked zoh awfully hard on him!

(MONSTER gets teary and reaches out for HELGA.)

MONSTER: Mmmmm... Mmmmm...

(They embrace.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Keep zee monster paws offen zee daughter!

(MONSTER gets mad.)

MONSTER: *(Slowly turning.)* Mmmmm.... Mmmmmmm...

(MONSTER stands and begins to march toward MR. KLONDIKE and the people.)

Raw, roooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo! Raw, roooooooooooooo!

(VILLAGERS gasp and scream! They shake their fists at MONSTER as HELGA, IRVING and FRANKIE try to shield him. MRS. MAGILLACUTTY slaps her way to the front of the VILLAGERS, entering, bopping everyone with her stick. She parts the crowd like the Red Sea.)

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Let me in! Let me in! Outta the way!

(MRS. MAGILLACUTTY slaps her way forward and walks into the playing area. She walks with determination in the completely wrong direction.)

Where is he? Where's my Fluffy? Hand him over, will ya?

(MRS. MAGILLACUTTY wanders around the stage reaching out, can't see anybody.)

MR. KLONDIKE: Who ezz zee dingbat?

MRS. NEWTON: Mr. Klondike. This is Mrs. Magillacutty. *(Catches her.)* She has a very unique relationship with this monster.

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: Stupid dog never comes in from outta the rain...

(MONSTER sees her and lets loose a dog howl.)

MONSTER: *(Happy.)* Ruff! Ruff! Ruff! Raw-roooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!

MRS. MAGILLACUTTY: That's my boy! Dumb as a brick. Whatever you crazy people have done to him, he's my dog you hear me? Now come on, Fluffy!

(MRS. NEWTON looks to FRANKIE.)

MRS. NEWTON: What do you think?

(MONSTER looks to FRANKIE.)

MONSTER: *(Looks to FRANKIE: "Can I?")* Mmmm?

FRANKIE: Why not?

MONSTER: *(Smiles, claps.)* Mmmmmmm!!!!!!

(T-BONE yelps as MR. KLONDIKE hustles him out. MR. KLONDIKE and all VILLAGERS exit. MRS. NEWTON, IRVING and FRANKIE are left on stage.)

MRS. NEWTON: Ah, Frankie. Did I ever tell you about the time I wired my father's pet raccoon to the starter of our school bus?

FRANKIE: Was it a successful experiment?

MRS. NEWTON: Got me suspended for two weeks!

FRANKIE: Cool!

(MRS. NEWTON puts her arm around FRANKIE, they walk out, talking and exiting. IRVING stays behind and looks around the laboratory. FRANKIE sticks his head in.)

Hey, Igor. Don't forget to turn out the lights!

(FRANKIE exits.)

IRVING: *(Drops into Igor hunch and voice.)* Yes, master.

(KIDZ stand and begin to flutter the cloth across playing area. IRVING goes to boom box/generator with the switch. He flips it!)

SOUND CUE #20: *Electricity!*

IRVING and KIDZ act as if electricity is zipping through them. They bounce stiffly around stage. Suddenly it stops, they all go limp.)

KIDZ: *(To audience.)* Lights out!

(SOUND: *Organ! Thunder! Lightning!*

KIDZ flutter the cloth up to cover the stage. Words are painted on the cloth like closing frame of an old movie: "The End".

SOUND CUE ENDS.)

END

CURTAIN CALL:

SOUND CUE #21: *Curtain call music, sounds.*

KIDZ drop cloth and IRVING bows, he gestures to FRANKIE and MRS. NEWTON who enter and bow. HELGA and MR. KLONDIKE enter and bow.

KIDZ enter with cloth, they bow then cover up all on stage with cloth. Behind cloth GANG of BONEZ take their place, when it falls KIDZ gesture to them and BONEZ bow. All gesture to MR. SPOTS and MRS. MAGILLACUTTY who enter and bow.

As they are bowing MONSTER has entered from behind the audience and lurches toward the stage. He comes on stage and makes everyone scream and run away through audience and out the back of auditorium.

When MONSTER is alone, MRS. MAGILLACUTTY enters and gives a dog whistle. MONSTER happily runs after her and they exit through audience out the back of auditorium.

If desired, all players may assemble in lobby and greet audience members as they exit the theatre.

Props

Silk-like cloths
 iPod & ear buds
 Backpack
 Candy bar
 Cardboard box/package
 Cover for box
 Scissors
 Packing peanuts in box
 Large book
 Push broom (optional)
 Chalk
 Whistle
 Spitballs
 Jar with Einstein's brains
 Jar with Fluffy's brains
 Walking stick
 Thick glasses
 School papers
 Violin case
 Violin
 Monster blob
 Hanging bicycle
 Boom box with rigged switch
 Flashlight
 Signs for jars: "Einstein", "Fluffy"
 Yucky brain
 Plugs with cords
 Clip-on bowtie
 Microphone
 Landline phone
 Match, box for striking
 Big net
 Sign: "Science Fair"
 Volcano project
 Cover for volcano project
 Beaker for pouring, volcano project
 Party horn or tube with confetti
 4 straw hats
 4 blacked out teeth, novelty
 Papers for wadding
 Football helmets covered aluminum foil
 Jumper cables
 Cloth sign: "The End"

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Frankenstein is a novel written two centuries ago by English author Mary Shelley that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a grotesque but sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Shelley started writing the story when she was 18, and the first edition of the novel was published anonymously in London in 1818, when she was 20. Her name first appeared on the second edition, published in France in 1823.

Frankenstein is an early example of science fiction and is often considered the first true science fiction story because, in contrast to previous stories with fantastical elements resembling those of later science fiction, the central character "makes a deliberate decision" and "turns to modern experiments in the laboratory" to achieve fantastic results. The story has had a considerable influence in literature and popular culture and has spawned a complete genre of similar horror stories, films and plays.

Kathryn Schultz Miller

Kathy co-founded the professional ArtReach Touring Theatre in Cincinnati and served as Artistic Director and Playwright for over 20 years. Many of her 75+ plays have been published, including *A Thousand Cranes* which was performed at the Kennedy Center, the Sundance Institute, the International Fringe Festival, and thousands of times the world over. She has won numerous awards including three prestigious National Endowment for the Arts Playwrights Awards, six Ohio Arts Council Playwriting Fellowships, and the Post-Corbett Foundation Excellence in Playwriting Award. Kathy lives in Florida with her husband Barry who creates soundtracks, processes orders, and maintains website design for ArtReach Children's Theatre Plays.

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A Christmas Wizard of Oz	Wizard of Oz Christmas version with Holiday music! (SPP)
A Snow White Christmas	The classic fairy tale with music – just for Christmas! (SPP)
A Thousand Cranes	Story of Sadako, a young Hiroshima victim (SM, EX, SPP)
Aladdin (and the Magic Lamp)	Magical characters, audience participation! (SM, EX, SPP)
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Beauty and the Beast	A classic tale, beautifully told (SM, SPP)
Blue Horses	Four children act out their dreams (SM)
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Cinderella	The world's most popular fairy tale (SPP)
Emperor's New Clothes, The	A rollicking version of the classic tale (SM, EX, SPP)
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*SM=SMall cast (touring), EX=EXpanded (medium) cast, SPP=School Play Package (large cast)

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