

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 ENGLISH/HOMEWORK 2**NAME (FIRST AND LAST):**_____ **GRADE:**_____

Read the following Spark Notes summaries of Chapters 1 and 2 of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

Summary: Chapter 1

The stranger, who the reader soon learns is Victor Frankenstein, begins his narration. He starts with his family background, birth, and early childhood, telling Walton about his father, Alphonse, and his mother, Caroline. Alphonse became Caroline's protector when her father, Alphonse's longtime friend Beaufort, died in poverty. They married two years later, and Victor was born soon after.

Frankenstein then describes how his childhood companion, Elizabeth Lavenza, entered his family. At this point in the narrative, the original (1818) and revised (1831) versions of *Frankenstein* diverge. In the original version, Elizabeth is Victor's cousin, the daughter of Alphonse's sister; when Victor is four years old, Elizabeth's mother dies and Elizabeth is adopted into the Frankenstein family. In the revised version, Elizabeth is discovered by Caroline, on a trip to Italy, when Victor is about five years old. While visiting a poor Italian family, Caroline notices a beautiful blonde girl among the dark-haired Italian children; upon discovering that Elizabeth is the orphaned daughter of a Milanese nobleman and a German woman and that the Italian family can barely afford to feed her, Caroline adopts Elizabeth and brings her back to Geneva. Victor's mother decides at the moment of the adoption that Elizabeth and Victor should someday marry.

Summary: Chapter 2

Elizabeth and Victor grow up together as best friends. Victor's friendship with Henry Clerval, a schoolmate and only child, flourishes as well, and he spends his childhood happily surrounded by this close domestic circle. As a teenager, Victor becomes increasingly fascinated by the mysteries of the natural world. He chances upon a book by Cornelius Agrippa, a sixteenth-century scholar of the occult sciences, and becomes interested in natural philosophy. He studies the outdated findings of the alchemists Agrippa, Paracelsus, and Albertus Magnus with enthusiasm. He witnesses the destructive power of nature when, during a raging storm, lightning destroys a tree near his house. A modern natural philosopher accompanying the Frankenstein family explains to Victor the workings of electricity, making the ideas of the alchemists seem outdated and worthless. (In the 1818 version, a demonstration of electricity by his father convinces Victor of the alchemists' mistakenness.)

Multiple Choiceⁱ

Chapter 1

1. Where was Victor Frankenstein born?
a) Paris. b) Belize. c) Ingolstadt. d) Naples.
2. Who was Beaufort?
a) Victor's cousin. b) A business partner of Alphonse. c) Caroline's father.
d) A childhood friend of Victor's.
3. Where did Victor's parents spent the first days of their marriage?
a) Switzerland. b) Italy. c) France. d) England.
4. How long after his parents' marriage was Victor born?
a) One year. b) Two years. c) Six months. d) Seven years.
5. Why did Victor's parents often visit the homes of the poor?
a) They liked to look down on the less fortunate.
b) They had benevolent spirits.
c) They were searching for Caroline's long lost brother.
d) They were hoping to find new servants.
6. What name does Victor call Elizabeth by?
a) Sister. b) Niece. c) Cousin. d) Aunt. Multiple Choice

Chapter 2

1. What is the profession of Henry Clerval's father?
A public servant. b) A pastor. c) An artist. d) A merchant.
2. Growing up, what did Victor desire to learn above all else?
a) The secrets of heaven and earth. b) The law. c) Languages and science.
d) Politics of various states.
3. Growing up, what did Henry desire to learn above all else?
a) The law and codes of government. b) Languages and science.
c) The secrets of heaven and earth. d) The moral relations of things.
4. Who was the first philosopher Victor ever read?
a) John Locke. b) Cornelius Agrippa. c) Paracelsus. d) Albertus Magnus.
5. What did Victor's father say when he saw Victor reading philosophy?
a) That he was proud of him. b) That Victor was wasting his time.
c) That he would never understand what Victor was reading.
d) That philosophy would prepare Victor for the future.

6. Which of the following began Victor's fascination with lightning and electricity?
- a) Benjamin Franklin's scientific experiments.
 - b) Albert Einstein's scientific breakthroughs.
 - c) An electric storm that destroys a nearby tree.
 - d) A storm that destroys the family home.

Short Answers

Chapter 1

1. Why does Victor's father pursue his old family friend? How does this situation end?

2. Where does Caroline first meet Elizabeth? Why does Caroline offer to take the child in?

3. How did Caroline present Elizabeth to young Victor in Chapter 1? How does Victor respond?

Chapter 2

1. What influenced Victor to begin reading philosophy as a teen?

READING COMPREHENSION/LITERARY ANALYSIS

Read the reading selections and answer the questions that follow.

From Chapter 1 (Here, Frankenstein tells Walton about his father, Alphonse, and his mother, Caroline. Alphonse became Caroline's protector when her father, Alphonse's longtime friend Beaufort, died in poverty.)

His daughter attended him with the greatest tenderness, but she saw with despair that their little fund was rapidly decreasing and that there was no other prospect of support. But Caroline Beaufort possessed a mind of an uncommon mould, and her courage rose to support her in her adversity. She procured plain work; she plaited straw and by various means contrived to earn a pittance scarcely sufficient to support life.

Several months passed in this manner. Her father grew worse; her time was more entirely occupied in attending him; her means of subsistence decreased; and in the tenth month her father died in her arms, leaving her an orphan and a beggar. This last blow overcame her, and she knelt by Beaufort's coffin weeping bitterly, when my father entered the chamber. He came like a protecting spirit to the poor girl, who committed herself to his care; and after the interment of his friend he conducted her to Geneva and placed her under the protection of a relation. Two years after this event Caroline became his wife.

There was a considerable difference between the ages of my parents, but this circumstance seemed to unite them only closer in bonds of devoted affection. There was a sense of justice in my father's upright mind which rendered it necessary that he should approve highly to love strongly. Perhaps during former years he had suffered from the late-discovered unworthiness of one beloved and so was disposed to set a greater value on tried worth. There was a show of gratitude and worship in his attachment to my mother, differing wholly from the doting fondness of age, for it was inspired by reverence for her virtues and a desire to be the means of, in some degree, recompensing her for the sorrows she had endured, but which gave inexpressible grace to his behaviour to her. Everything was made to yield to her wishes and her convenience. He strove to shelter her, as a fair exotic is sheltered by the gardener, from every rougher wind and to surround her with all that could tend to excite pleasurable emotion in her soft and benevolent mind. Her health, and even the tranquillity of her hitherto constant spirit, had been shaken by what she had gone through. During the two years that had elapsed previous to their marriage my father had gradually relinquished all his public functions; and immediately after their union they sought the pleasant climate of Italy, and the change of scene and interest attendant on a tour through that land of wonders, as a restorative for her weakened frame.

Based on the selection, what is your impression of Frankenstein's mother, Caroline Beaufort? Explain your answer with details from the selection.

From Chapter 1

From Italy they visited Germany and France. I, their eldest child, was born at Naples, and as an infant accompanied them in their rambles. I remained for several years their only child. Much as they were attached to each other, they seemed to draw inexhaustible stores of affection from a very mine of love to bestow them upon me. My mother's tender caresses and my father's smile of benevolent pleasure while regarding me are my first recollections. I was their plaything and their idol, and something better—their child, the innocent and helpless creature bestowed on them by heaven, whom to bring up to good, and whose future lot it was in their hands to direct to happiness or misery, according as they fulfilled their duties towards me. With this deep consciousness of what they owed towards the being to which they had given life, added to the active spirit of tenderness that animated both, it may be imagined that while during every hour of my infant life I received a lesson of patience, of charity, and of self-control, I was so guided by a silken cord that all seemed but one train of enjoyment to me.

Describe Frankenstein's childhood in your own words.

From Chapter 1 (Here, Frankenstein describes his mother's encounter with a child she would soon adopt.)

Among these there was one which attracted my mother far above all the rest. She appeared of a different stock. The four others were dark-eyed, hardy little vagrants; this child was thin and very fair. Her hair was the brightest living gold, and despite the poverty of her clothing, seemed to set a crown of distinction on her head. Her brow was clear and ample, her blue eyes cloudless, and her lips and the moulding of her face so expressive of sensibility and sweetness that none could behold her without looking on her as of a distinct species, a being heaven-sent, and bearing a celestial stamp in all her features.

According to Frankenstein, why was his mother drawn to Elizabeth Lavenza when she was an infant? As much as possible, paraphrase Frankenstein's description.

From Chapter 2 (Here, Frankenstein describes his childhood, in particular his friendship with Elizabeth Lavenza and Henry Clerval.)

We were brought up together; there was not quite a year difference in our ages. I need not say that we were strangers to any species of disunion or dispute. Harmony was the soul of our companionship, and the diversity and contrast that subsisted in our characters drew us nearer together. Elizabeth was of a calmer and more concentrated disposition; but, with all my ardour, I was capable of a more intense application and was more deeply smitten with the thirst for knowledge. She busied herself with following the aerial creations of the poets; and in the majestic and wondrous scenes which surrounded our Swiss home—the sublime shapes of the mountains, the changes of the seasons, tempest and calm, the silence of winter, and the life and turbulence of our Alpine summers—she found ample scope for admiration and delight. While my companion contemplated with a serious and satisfied spirit the magnificent appearances of things, I delighted in investigating their causes. The world was to me a secret which I desired to divine. Curiosity, earnest research to learn the hidden laws of nature, gladness akin to rapture, as they were unfolded to me, are among the earliest sensations I can remember.

On the birth of a second son, my junior by seven years, my parents gave up entirely their wandering life and fixed themselves in their native country. We possessed a house in Geneva, and a campagne on Belrive, the eastern shore of the lake, at the distance of rather more than a league from the city. We resided principally in the latter, and the lives of my parents were passed in considerable seclusion. It was my temper to avoid a crowd and to attach myself fervently to a few. I was indifferent, therefore, to my school-fellows in general; but I united myself in the bonds of the closest friendship to one among them. Henry Clerval was the son of a merchant of Geneva. He was a boy of singular talent and fancy. He loved enterprise, hardship, and even danger for its own sake. He was deeply read in books of chivalry and romance. He composed heroic songs and began to write many a tale of enchantment and knightly adventure. He tried to make us act plays and to enter into masquerades, in which the characters were drawn from the heroes of Roncesvalles, of the Round Table of King Arthur, and the chivalrous train who shed their blood to redeem the holy sepulchre from the hands of the infidels.

No human being could have passed a happier childhood than myself. My parents were possessed by the very spirit of kindness and indulgence. We felt that they were not the tyrants to rule our lot according to their caprice, but the agents and creators of all the many delights which we enjoyed. When I mingled with other families I distinctly discerned how peculiarly fortunate my lot was, and gratitude assisted the development of filial love.

My temper was sometimes violent, and my passions vehement; but by some law in my temperature they were turned not towards childish pursuits but to an eager desire to learn, and not to learn all things indiscriminately. I confess that neither the structure of languages, nor the code of governments, nor the politics of various states possessed attractions for me. It was the secrets of heaven and earth that I desired to learn; and whether it was the outward substance of things or the inner spirit of nature and the mysterious soul of man that occupied me, still my inquiries were directed to the metaphysical, or in its highest sense, the physical secrets of the world.

Meanwhile Clerval occupied himself, so to speak, with the moral relations of things. The busy stage of life, the virtues of heroes, and the actions of men were his theme; and his hope and his dream was to become one among those whose names are recorded in story as the gallant and adventurous benefactors of our species. The saintly soul of Elizabeth shone like a shrine-dedicated lamp in our peaceful home. Her sympathy was ours; her smile, her soft voice, the sweet glance of her celestial eyes, were ever there to bless and animate us. She was the living spirit of love to soften and attract; I might have become sullen in my study, rough through the ardour of my nature, but that she was there to subdue me to a semblance of her own gentleness. And Clerval—could aught ill trench on the noble spirit of Clerval? Yet he might not have been so perfectly humane, so thoughtful in his generosity, so full of kindness and tenderness amidst his passion for adventurous exploit, had she not unfolded to him the real loveliness of beneficence and made the doing good the end and aim of his soaring ambition.

- i. What are the main differences in the personalities of Victor Frankenstein, Elizabeth Lavenza, and Henry Clerval?

- ii. “My temper was sometimes violent, and my passions vehement; but by some law in my temperature they were turned not towards childish pursuits but to an eager desire to learn, and not to learn all things indiscriminately. I confess that neither the structure of languages, nor the code of governments, nor the politics of various states possessed attractions for me. It was the secrets of heaven and earth that I desired to learn; and whether it was the outward substance of things or the inner spirit of nature and the mysterious soul of man that occupied me, still my inquiries were directed to the metaphysical, or in its highest sense, the physical secrets of the world.”

Does Frankenstein’s description of himself remind us of Walton in any way? (Refer to the opening letters in *Frankenstein* or Homework 1.)

GRAMMAR

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

- A **sentence fragment** is a phrase or clause that might look like a sentence, but does not express a complete thought. The fragment might be missing an important element of sentences, such as a verb or subject.

EXAMPLE: **Fragment:** Just before eating.

Corrected sentence: Just before eating, he called Allan.

A. Place an F to indicate which of the following is a sentence fragment or an S to indicate if it is a complete sentence.

- ___ 1. While serving her residency at a Manitoba hospital.
- ___ 2. Clyde refused.
- ___ 3. To be a member of the Royal Ontario Museum expedition to Costa Rica.
- ___ 4. Who discovered that insulin was a treatment for diabetes.
- ___ 5. As long as the government continues to provide subsidies.
- ___ 6. It requires dedication to become a full-time writer.
- ___ 7. In the heart of cottage country.
- ___ 8. Since the Homestead Act was repealed.
- ___ 9. Stop!
- ___ 10. Inevitably, things changed.

THE END

ⁱ All questions from page 2 to 3 are from BookRags (2013-01-16). *Frankenstein Lesson Plans* (Kindle Locations 1646-1648). Kindle Edition.