

Discussion Groups - Introduction to Frankenstein

1. What do you think spurs people to explore the unknown?

In a small group, list ways in which people throughout the ages have explored the unknown. Also, identify some reasons why individuals devote themselves to a life of exploration and discovery. Does such devotion involve sacrifices?

2. How do you define personal responsibility? When something bad happens that involves you, how do you know whether or not you bear some responsibility for it?

Evaluate these situations. In each case, discuss whether person *B* has a responsibility to person *A*. •

- *A* falls off *B*'s roof while mending it.
- *B* walks by *A*, who is homeless and begging on the street.
- *B* lends *A* his car, which has faulty brakes, and *A* has an accident.

3. What are some reasons why a person might be rejected by others?

Quickwrite (solo)

- a. Describe on paper a situation in which a person might feel he or she has been repeatedly rejected by others. What emotional response might the person have?

Why is it important to love and be loved?

(Then two people) Think-Pair-Share

- b. On a sheet of paper, write three reasons why companionship or love is an important part of the human experience. Then meet with another student and read your ideas aloud. Discuss, blend, and adjust your lists to come up with three reasons that you both agree on.

4.

Ask students to list examples of recent developments in biological research, such as organ transplants, genetic engineering of plants, gender selection of babies, and cloning. Have students form small groups and select one of the listed topics to investigate. Encourage them to look for print and Internet sources of information that discuss the ethical issues raised by their topic.

If time permits:

Just Like Life

Students reenact everyday situations that parallel those in the novel.

- Divide the class into pairs. Ask each pair to devise and rehearse a skit based on one of the following situations.
 1. – A person becomes so caught up in a project that he or she becomes sick and neglects family and friends.
 2. – A person feels that another person has treated him or her unjustly.
 3. – A person is feeling lonely and rejected and wants to be liked by others.
- After each skit, discuss how each of the characters might have been feeling, and why. At the end of the activity, tell students that *Frankenstein* will require them to see an issue from multiple points of view.