

**Reading Response 1: Frankenstein Vol. 1**

Something that surprised me about *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley was how quickly Frankenstein's monster was created in the story. In movies about the book the creation of the monster was the climax of the film, but for the book it was more of a plot point.

Volume one starts with a few letters from R. Walton directed to his sister in England describing how on an expedition to Antarctica they found a man on a sled and brought him aboard. This transitions into an account from the saved man, Victor Frankenstein about his life before his "tragedies."

Victor moves to Ingolstadt to attend university and takes up natural sciences like chemistry and other natural philosophies. Victor exceeds the expectations of his professors and starts working on his personal project above his apartment. He neglects his health and family for the purpose of creating his monster. Only after the monster is given life does Victor realize his mistake and is bedridden from fear of the thing. A old friend nurses Victor to health and Victor must return to his home for the murder of his youngest brother William at what he believes is the hands of his monster. The judges believe that another childhood friend of his, Justine is the one who murdered his brother and she is sentenced to death after confessing under the threat of "excommunication and hell fire."

Volume one ends with Victor having created his monster and condemning two of his closest friends to death. He cannot prove Justine's innocence because the tale would be that of a madman and no one would believe him. So Victor has to suffer in silence that he is the creator of William and Justine's death.