Frankenstein: Unit Overview

ENG4U, Grade 12 English (University), Unit 3. 14 classes of 75 minutes (about three weeks).

The big question

What do creators owe the things and the people they create?

Students read Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in its first (1818) edition, included in full, tracking its three nested narrators and keeping a “responsibility ledger” of what Victor owes his creation and what he does. Lessons combine close reading with debate and creative work: retelling the creation night from the Creature's view, a council on Justine's trial, a Romantic sublime gallery, a nature-or-nurture debate, an ethics panel on the female companion, a gallery of the novel's women, and a comparison of three endings. Students then learn to find and evaluate scholarly criticism, hold a tribunal (The Creature v. Victor Frankenstein), write a creators' code for modern science and technology, and write a researched literary essay using two critical sources.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**A Ghost Story Contest**	1	Where did Frankenstein come from?	R 1.1, R 1.2, OC 2.1	1816; Mary Shelley; Prometheus; myth vs novel
2	**Walton's Letters**	1	Why a story within a story?	R 2.1, R 1.3, R 1.4	Nesting-doll narrators; two explorers
3	**The Making of a Scientist**	1	Doomed or chose?	R 1.3, R 1.4, R 1.7	Cause chain; fate language; obsession
4	**A Dreary Night of November**	1	Why does Victor run?	R 1.4, R 2.3, R 1.8	Creation scene; the Creature's first night
5	**Justine**	1	What is justice when the truth is hidden?	R 1.5, R 1.8, OC 1.6	Trial notes; Victor's council
6	**The Sublime**	1	Who wins the argument on the ice?	R 2.3, R 1.6, OC 1.7	Sublime gallery; rhetoric of the Creature
7	**Learning to Be Human**	1	Born good, or made?	R 1.3, R 1.5, OC 2.1	The Creature's education; nature vs nurture
8	**Rejection**	1	How is a monster made?	R 1.6, R 1.8, OC 2.2	Three books; De Lacey scene; timeline
9	**A Companion**	1	Should Victor make her?	R 1.7, OC 2.1, R 1.5	Two decisions; ethics panel; the threat
10	**The Wedding Night**	1	What does the novel say about women?	R 1.8, R 1.5, W 1.3	Women gallery; test a feminist claim

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11	**Into the Ice**	1	Who learns, at the end?	R 1.3, R 1.6, R 2.1	Three endings; tribunal evidence
12	**Reading the Critics**	1	How do we join the critical conversation?	W 1.3, W 1.5, R 1.7	Seven critics; sources; working thesis
13	**The Tribunal**	1	Who is responsible?	OC 2.1, OC 2.3, OC 1.6	The Creature v. Victor Frankenstein (summative)
14	**A Creators' Code**	1	What does Frankenstein teach us now?	R 1.5, W 2.7, W 3.4	Modern cases; creators' code; essay workshop

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Myth vs novel, narrator tracker, cause chain, close reading, trial notes, argument on the ice, education chart, monster timeline, ethics panel, women gallery, source evaluation, essay outline
Assessment as learning	Responsibility ledger, peer debate feedback, unit reflection
Assessment of learning	The tribunal (Lesson 13) and a researched literary essay using two critical sources, with rubrics in the Summative Tasks file

Texts

Included in the Start Here folder:

- **Frankenstein Reading Edition:** the complete 1818 novel (public domain), formatted for class
- **Frankenstein Companion:** characters, plain-language summaries of the letters and all 23 chapters, fifteen key passages, a guide to seven critics and MLA examples
- **Teacher choice:** public domain Romantic paintings for the sublime gallery; optional current news articles for Lesson 14

The novel includes murder, the death of a child, a wrongful execution and grief. The Companion's chapter notes include a conversion guide for classes using 1831-based editions. Critical sources are summarized in original words; students read and cite the originals through school or public library databases.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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