

## Prerequisite Reading 2018-2019

### English 2H

Dr. McCall

\*\*Class Schedules Change—Listed Semesters are current as of 5/22/18. It is your responsibility to complete reading prior to the class.

You will read one novel for your prerequisite reading assignment. The novel is *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley (1831 edition). The one we use in class is the Dover Thrift Edition ISBN 0-486-28211-2 but you may use any publisher's copy as long as it is not abridged and it is not from the first publishing (1818). The story changes slightly from the 1818 publishing.

*After reading the novel, complete the assignments discussed below.*

### Assignment 1

In preparation for a Socratic Seminar, which will be on **day 3** of our class, you must explore (in writing) the following prompts. I expect that you will have copious notes for each and you **will submit** these notes as part of the assessment. Notes may be handwritten or typed. See the example below.

#### EXAMPLE Socratic Seminar NOTES

Example Prompt: Why does the monster rarely refer to Frankenstein by his name?

- Pg. 69 the monster calls his creator by name several times as he begs him to listen to his story. It's part of his cry for help.
- If the monster calls Frankenstein by name, it "humanizes" the creator and causes the monster more pain as he realizes he is not accepted in to society (he has no name). A name=a member of a group/society. Since the creature doesn't have one and feels no acceptance, he probably doesn't want Frankenstein to have one, either.
- The monster has no respect for Frankenstein—so he doesn't refer to him by name.
- Pg. 85 the monster describes learning about family and the things that society values most. Since he has none of these things in his life, he feels like he has no value--this, he blames on his creator. He is not taught to love because he is abandoned. Not giving a name to Frankenstein is part of the guilt he wants him to feel.
- Pg. 100 the creature calls Frankenstein "heartless, unfeeling creator" instead of a name
- Pg. 102 the creature refers to Frankenstein as "my enemy" because of hatred he has because of his ugliness and because of his rejection by society. Frankenstein made him ugly.
- Pg. 104 Frankenstein is called "my creator" as he is threatened by the creature.
- The connection to *Paradise Lost* and the connection of the creature to Adam and Frankenstein to God
- Pg. 122 "slave" the monster has gotten into his head and can make him do what he wants. The monster is the master.

Prompts for Socratic Seminar

1. Were Victor's actions of creating, then abandoning, then refusing to make another creature, ethical?
2. Define what it means to be monstrous.
3. What is at the root of the monster's behavior? Abandonment? His appearance? Society? Victor? Explain.
4. Is the monster a reflection of his creator? Explain.
5. Why did Frankenstein feel the need to create the monster in the first place?
6. Who is the real monster? Victor? The monster? Both?
7. Why does the monster help the drowning child? Does he have an instinct to help others? If so, does that mean he is inherently good?
8. Does the creature deserve sympathy from the reader? Was he written to get our sympathy?
9. Does Victor act out of hate or out of fear towards the monster? Explain.
10. Henry Clerval is the light within the darkness, yet when he begins to engulf his mind in the sciences, he could seemingly go in the same direction as Victor. What does this say about the Romantic view of science?
11. Is the fact that the monster is never given a name symbolic? Why or why not?

We will continue to study *Frankenstein* as our first unit so it is imperative that you have read it before the first day of class.

### Assignment 2

On the second class meeting, you will complete a timed writing assignment. You should read the novel critically, making sure to note important themes and events. During the 60 minute time-period, you will be able to reference your notes and the book (make sure you bring both to class). The essay prompt will be given on the day of the class, and your work will be graded as follows:

Your essay must include at least one direct quotation (with proper citation), it must be multiple paragraphs, and it must have a clear introduction, conclusion, and thesis. No personal pronouns. Rubric on reverse of page.

10 Fully addresses the prompt, provides ample and highly specific support, and is organizationally strong. Demonstrates fluency and maturity in vocabulary and syntax with strong mechanics. All requirements are met.

9 Effectively fulfills the task with abundant and specific support, strong organization, vocabulary, syntax, and mechanics. Most requirements are met.

8 Adequate response to the task with effective support, solid organization, adequate vocabulary, syntax, and mechanics. Many requirements are met.

7 Fulfills the task but with limited support and weak organization and mechanics; limited vocabulary and syntax. Some requirements are met.

6 Fulfills the task with very little support; only somewhat organized; very limited vocabulary and syntax; mechanically very weak. Few requirements are met.

5 Only partially fulfills the task; inadequately organized; extremely limited vocabulary and syntax; mechanics impede understanding.

### **Assignment 3**

*Answer the following critical thinking questions in complete sentences on notebook paper. These are due on the first day of class.*

#### **Letters I-IV**

1. Who is Robert Walton? What is he searching for and what is his attitude towards the quest?
2. In the second letter, what does Walton say that he longs for?
3. Why do you think Walton feels lonely even though he is on board a ship with a full crew?
4. How does Walton respond to the stranger (how does he feel about him)? Why do you believe Walton feels this way?

#### **Chapters I-X**

1. Who tells this part of the story?
2. Who is Elizabeth and how does Frankenstein feel about her?
3. What is Frankenstein's purpose in pursuing science? What does he study?
4. What two major events happen to Frankenstein when he was seventeen?
5. What disappoints him the most about his creation?
6. Frankenstein says, "I shunned my fellow creatures as if I had been guilty of a crime." From your reading, give specific examples of Frankenstein's isolation from others. What does this tell you about his personality?
7. How is Frankenstein affected by the knowledge that the creature may be responsible for the death of William?
8. In Chapter 7, what statement suggests that he views the creature as part of himself?
9. What does Frankenstein see just outside the gates of Geneva as he was returning home?
10. How does the creature explain his evil behavior? Why does the creature compare himself to the biblical character Adam?

#### **Chapters XI-XVI**

1. Who is telling the story in Chapter XI?
2. How does the creature get to know the family who lives in the cottage?
3. What does the creature learn to do, and how does he learn this?
4. What was the elder De Lacey's reaction when the creature entered the cottage and began speaking with him?
5. What was the reaction of the rest of the De Lacey family when they saw the creature?
6. After reading Paradise Lost, why does the creature think he is like Adam in that book? Why does he think he is like Satan?
7. What are the specific reasons that the creature gives for hating his creator?

#### **Chapters XVII-XXI**

1. What arguments does the creature use to persuade Frankenstein to make the female creature?
2. How does Frankenstein's decision affect Frankenstein's mood and personal life?
3. What keeps Frankenstein from completing the second creature?
4. How does Frankenstein become lost at sea?
5. What happens when he lands in Ireland?
6. Who had been the creature's most recent victim?
7. What happens at Frankenstein's trial?

#### **Chapters XXII-XXIV**

1. What does Frankenstein promise to tell Elizabeth after they are married?
2. What happens to Elizabeth? What does Frankenstein resolve to do?
3. What request does Frankenstein make of Robert Walton?
4. What happens to Frankenstein?
5. What happens to the creature?

**Questions? Email Dr. McCall at [lmccall@g.oconee.k12.sc.us](mailto:lmccall@g.oconee.k12.sc.us)**