

FRANKENSTEIN

Directed by Kenneth Branagh (1994)
Starring Kenneth Branagh,
Robert de Niro and
Helen Bonham Carter

▲ Robert De Niro starring as the monster in Frankenstein (1994).

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The story so far...

After creating his monster and seeing its horrendous form Victor Frankenstein tries to kill it, but the monster escapes. It lives in the wild and even teaches itself to speak, read and write. Victor tries to move on with his life and is about to marry his fiancée Elizabeth but tragedy strikes and two people close to him die as a consequence of the monster's actions. One of these was Victor's younger brother, William, whom the monster killed with his bare hands. The monster then confronts Victor and asks him to meet him high up in the snowy peaks of the Alps. Victor arrives and is pushed into a cave, the monster's den¹



OVER TO YOU

1 Watch the scene for the first time and observe the characters. Then answer the following questions writing 'VF' for Victor Frankenstein and 'M' for monster.

1. Which character seems to be in control?
2. Which character seems to be more confused?
3. Who shows signs of guilt?
4. Who speaks the most?

2 The monster asks Victor many questions. Watch and listen to the scene again and complete the following questions.

1. You gave me these but you didn't tell me how to them [...]. Why?
2. What of my ? Do I have one?
3. Who were these of which I am?
4. Good people? people?
5. Do you know I knew how to this?
6. In which part of me did this reside?
7. Did you ever the consequences of your actions?
8. Who?

3 In pairs decide which are the most important questions the monster asks and say why.

4 Question 1, exercise 2 above is connected to one of the main themes of the novel, the theme of 'responsibility'. How?

5 Questions 3, 4 and 6, exercise 2 above are also connected to an important theme. That of creation and what makes us who and what we are. The monster wants: to know but Victor simply answers that he is made up of 'materials, nothing more.' This is the view of a scientist. What might a religious person answer?

- ⑥ Victor tries to justify his actions by saying: 'There's something at work in my soul which I do not understand.' What could it be at work in his soul? Choose one.

- ☐ vanity
☐ the desire to create
☐ the thirst for knowledge

- ⑦ In answer to the monster's final question Victor answers: 'I don't know.' He created something without really understanding what he was creating. How would you describe his actions? Discuss in class.

- ⑧ Do you find Kenneth Branagh's monster convincing? Why? Why not? Discuss.

- ⑨ Does the monster express any human qualities?



▲ A scene from *Frankenstein* (1994), a film by Kenneth Branagh.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

- ⑩ Describe the monster's den. Why may the monster have chosen this place?
- ⑪ Can you think of any way in which this den could be symbolic of the relationship between the monster and Dr. Frankenstein?

▼ Kenneth Branagh as Victor Frankenstein.

