

ESCAPE ROOM

SECONDARY STUDENTS

FRANKENSTEIN

TEACHER INFORMATION

WWW.FLIPEDUCA.COM

Activities to prepare for the escape room

1. Speaking

Ask students what they already know about the story of Frankenstein.

- Do they know the name of the writer?
- Do they know when the novel was written?
- Do they know who Frankenstein is? Do they know that Frankenstein is the name of the creator of the monster and not the monster himself?

2. Reading

2.a. Frankenstein plot

Victor Frankenstein is a science student obsessed with studying the secrets of life. He wants to give life to inanimate bodies. With this objective, he studies medicine and investigates ways to create an artificial creature, using corpses.

After months of intense work, Victor's experiments succeed: he manages to give life to a being over 2 metres tall, which he has created out of parts of dead bodies. Seeing the monstrous creature he has created, the young Frankenstein gets scared, flees his laboratory and falls seriously ill.

The monster is also scared and runs away. He learns to observe and imitate humans, but when he wants to help them or make human friends, they always reject him because of his appearance, and either run away or try to attack him. In these attempts to approach humans, the monster commits several murders.

Among them, he kills Victor Frankenstein's little brother. When this happens, Victor decides to go look for the monster. When he finds him, the monster tells him his story and holds him responsible for his misfortune. Thus, the monster demands Frankenstein to create a creature for him. At the beginning Victor Frankenstein agrees out of fear. However, then he is aware of the consequences this could

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have and refuses, destroying the partner he is creating for the monster. The monster decides to take revenge and kills Elizabeth, Frankenstein's wife, just after they marry.

Victor swears to destroy his creation and chases the monster to the North Pole. There, Victor fails in an attempt to kill him and falls very ill. At the North Pole, Robert Walton, an explorer with many scientific credentials, rescues Victor Frankenstein and becomes his friend. Frankenstein tells Walton the whole story before he dies of his illness. He wants to warn Walton of the dangers of scientific ambition. When Frankenstein dies, the monster appears and mourns the death of its creator. The monster tells Walton that he will end his own existence.

Who is the author of Frankenstein?

Mary Shelley was born on the 30th August in London. She was the child of two famous writers: Mary Wollstonecraft (an early feminist who died days after the birth of her daughter) and William Godwin (a controversial political writer). Many of her parents' friends were also writers. Shelley married the Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. They travelled through Europe together, and many of the locations they visited are mentioned in *Frankenstein*.

When Mary Shelley started writing *Frankenstein* in 1816, she and her partner were staying with Lord Byron (a 'Romantic' poet) at his villa on the shores of Lake Geneva, in Switzerland. During their stay, bad weather forced Mary and her companions to spend a lot of time indoors. To pass the time, they read ghost stories. They then challenged each other to write one, but Mary struggled to think of a good plot.

After a discussion about science, Mary had a dream in which she saw a "pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together". This dream inspired her to write her story. Mary expanded the story into a novel, *Frankenstein*, which was first published in 1818.

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Contemporary Science in Europe s. XVIII-XIX

Shelley was writing at a time of great scientific debate about the origins of life. Some scientists believed that studying electricity might reveal what gives life to people and animals. In 1780, the Italian scientist Luigi Galvani discovered that connecting two different metals to a dead frog would generate an electric current and move the frog's muscles. Galvani decided there was a type of 'animal electricity' within living things, responsible for muscle movement. In 1803, Giovanni Aldini (Galvani's nephew) conducted a similar experiment on the body of a dead criminal. People reported seeing the jaw quiver and an eye open. Shelley was aware of these experiments when she wrote *Frankenstein*.

On the other hand, there was also a great interest in Polar Exploration when Mary Shelley wrote her novel. Britain wanted to discover a passage to India and China through the Arctic seas. These kinds of expeditions were very dangerous and many explorers failed.

Main characters of the novel

Victor Frankenstein: an ambitious young scientist who becomes obsessed with bringing inanimate matter to life.

The monster: Frankenstein's creation. He is extremely ugly, which scares people. He becomes bitter and evil after being rejected by society. He feels lonely and wants a companion.

Robert Walton: an ambitious explorer who is travelling to the North Pole. He also feels lonely and wishes to make a friend.

NOTE: We have just described the three most important characters of the novel. You can research [1] online about all of them and make a family tree of Victor Frankenstein's family and a chart of the other characters.

[1] Suggested websites:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/frankenstein-characters-4580219>

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/frankenstein/characters/>

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