



Book Club in a Bag

Discussion Questions

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

1. Is Walton a reliable narrator? Why or why not?
2. Is Walton's goal to "confer on all mankind . . . a passage near the pole" noble or overly ambitious?
3. How does Victor's statement that "the world was to me a secret which I desired to divine" serve as characterization?
4. What is Shelley's intent when she has Victor characterize Elizabeth as "the saintly soul (who) shone like a shrine-dedicated lamp in our peaceful home?" What role does this characterization set for Elizabeth?
5. Victor's obsession with natural science results in two years passing with no visits home. How would you evaluate his character at this point?
6. How does the change in narration to the creature's point of view affect the reading of the novel? Do you feel sympathy for the creature when he is rejected by humanity?
7. Is the creature's demand for a female companion a valid request? Examine the pros and cons of Victor's compliance. Consider evidence provided by both Victor and the creature.
8. Dr. Frankenstein finds himself unable to "mother" the being he creates. Why does Shelley characterize Victor in this way? What does this choice say about the role of women during Shelley's era? Discuss the significance of parent-child relationships and birth references throughout the novel.
9. Why does the creature choose to die at the end of the novel? What does his choice suggest about his connection to Frankenstein?

The above questions were taken from
<https://www.readinggroupguides.com/reviews/frankenstein-by-mary-shelley/guide>
to enhance your discussion of the book.

Author Biography

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 – 1851) was an English novelist who wrote the Gothic novel *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, which is considered an early example of science fiction. She was married to the Romantic poet and philosopher Percy Bysshe Shelley, and edited many of his works.

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