

Frankenstein ~ Mary Shelley

Page Turners Meeting – **October 9 @ 6:00**

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is the actual monster in Frankenstein?
2. Victor warns Robert that acquiring knowledge can lead to "destruction and infallible misery." What serious consequences might the acquisition of knowledge have?
3. Is Robert Walton's ambition similar to Frankenstein's, as Frankenstein believes?
4. Why does Frankenstein become obsessed with creating life? Was it wrong for Frankenstein to inquire into the origins of life?
5. What makes the creature a monster rather than a human being? Why is Frankenstein filled with disgust, calling the monster "my enemy," as soon as he has created him?
6. Why did Victor create the creature? What responsibilities did Victor, as the creator, have toward his creature? Why did Victor abandon the creature?
7. The creature tries to introduce himself to the old man, DeLacey, because the old man is blind and will not judge the creature by his looks. Would we live in a better or worse world if we couldn't use any physical appearance in making friends or enemies?
8. What does the monster think his creator owes him?
9. Why does Frankenstein agree to create a bride for the monster, then procrastinate and finally break his promise?
10. Why can't Frankenstein tell anyone—even his father or Elizabeth—why he blames himself for the deaths of William, Justine, and Henry Clerval?
11. Why doesn't Frankenstein realize that the monster's pledge "I shall be with you on your wedding-night" threatens Elizabeth as well as himself?
12. Why does Frankenstein find new purpose in life when he decides to seek revenge on the monster "until he or I shall perish in mortal conflict"?
13. Why are Frankenstein and his monster ultimately both miserable, bereft of human companionship, and obsessed with revenge? Are they in the same situation at the end of the novel?
14. Why doesn't Walton kill the monster when he has the chance?
15. One of the novel's tragedies is the inability of characters to recognize the humanity of the creature. What qualities make us human? Which of these qualities does the creature possess? What qualities does he not have?
16. Is the monster, whom can be persuasive, always telling the truth?
17. Victor warns Robert that acquiring knowledge can lead to "destruction and infallible misery." What serious consequences might the acquisition of knowledge have?
18. Scholars sometimes use *Frankenstein* as an argument against scientific technology that creates life forms; others argue that it is not technology itself but the use to which it is put that presents an ethical problem. What is Shelley's position? What is your position?