

FRANKENSTEIN by Mary Shelley

THE AUTHOR & THE CREATION OF FRANKENSTEIN

Watch the two videos and choose the best answer (A, B, C or D).

The questionnaire combines important events from Mary Shelley's life with key facts about the conception, writing and publication of Frankenstein. You can also read pages 4 to 8 to help you.



1. Who was Mary Shelley?

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|--|--|
| A. ☐ An English novelist and writer | C. ☐ An Italian scientist |
| B. ☐ A French painter | D. ☐ An American journalist |

2. What was Mary Shelley's name before her relationship with Percy Bysshe Shelley?

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|---|---|
| A. ☐ Mary Godwin | C. ☐ Mary Clairmont |
| B. ☐ Mary Byron | D. ☐ Mary Wollstonecraft |

3. Who was Mary Shelley's mother?

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. ☐ Jane Austen | C. ☐ Claire Clairmont |
| B. ☐ Mary Wollstonecraft | D. ☐ Dorothy Wordsworth |

4. What was significant about Mary Shelley's family background?

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|---|---|
| A. ☐ Both parents were famous thinkers and writers | C. ☐ Her parents were scientists |
| B. ☐ She came from a royal family | D. ☐ She grew up in Italy |

5. Who was Percy Bysshe Shelley?

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|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| A. ☐ A Romantic poet | B. ☐ A doctor | C. ☐ A painter | D. ☐ A politician |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

6. What major decision did Mary and Percy make in 1814?

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| A. ☐ They stopped writing | B. ☐ They eloped and travelled to Europe |
| C. ☐ They moved to Scotland | D. ☐ They travelled to America |

7. Who was Claire Clairmont?

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|---|---|
| A. ☐ Mary's stepsister | B. ☐ Mary's mother |
| C. ☐ Percy's sister | D. ☐ Byron's wife |

8. Why did Claire Clairmont become important to the events of 1816?

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|--|
| A. ☐ She became Mary's editor |
| B. ☐ She published Frankenstein |
| C. ☐ She wanted to meet Lord Byron and helped bring the group to Geneva |
| D. ☐ She studied medicine with Polidori |

9. Who were the main people gathered around Villa Diodati in 1816?

- A. ☐ Dickens, Austen, Byron and Keats
- B. ☐ Byron, Polidori, Mary Shelley, Percy Shelley and Claire Clairmont
- C. ☐ Godwin, Byron and Shakespeare
- D. ☐ Only Mary and Percy

10. Why was the summer of 1816 unusual?

- A. ☐ The weather was extremely cold, wet and stormy
- B. ☐ There was a heatwave
- C. ☐ The group travelled constantly
- D. ☐ There was no rain

11. What was 1816 famously called?

- A. ☐ The Year of Electricity
- B. ☐ The Year of the Novel
- C. ☐ The Romantic Year
- D. ☐ The Year Without a Summer

12. What did the group often do because the weather kept them indoors?

- A. ☐ Paint landscapes
- B. ☐ Tell and read ghost stories
- C. ☐ Play football
- D. ☐ Study languages

13. Who proposed a challenge to write ghost stories?

- A. ☐ Mary Shelley
- B. ☐ Lord Byron
- C. ☐ Percy Shelley
- D. ☐ John Polidori

14. What was Mary Shelley initially struggling to find?

- A. ☐ A good idea for her ghost story
- B. ☐ A publisher
- C. ☐ A new home
- D. ☐ A scientific experiment

15. What happened to Mary Shelley one night during the ghost-story challenge?

- A. ☐ She met a scientist
- B. ☐ She experienced a powerful waking dream or vision
- C. ☐ She discovered an old manuscript
- D. ☐ She travelled to London

16. What did Mary see in her famous vision?

- A. ☐ A ghost entering Villa Diodati
- B. ☐ A vampire attacking a castle
- C. ☐ A scientist bringing a lifeless human form to life
- D. ☐ A ship sinking in a storm

17. What scientific ideas helped shape Frankenstein?

- A. ☐ Steam engines alone
- B. ☐ The invention of the telephone
- C. ☐ Astronomy and space travel
- D. ☐ Experiments with electricity, galvanism and the possibility of reanimating dead matter

18. What was the central question behind Mary Shelley's original idea?

- A. ☐ What if a scientist could create life from lifeless matter?
- B. ☐ What if a vampire became human?
- C. ☐ What if a ghost became a king?
- D. ☐ What if a poet could fly?

19. How did the dramatic landscape and thunderstorms contribute to the story?

- A. ☐ They created a dark and intense Gothic atmosphere
- B. ☐ They made the story a comedy
- C. ☐ They had no influence
- D. ☐ They inspired a travel book

20. Who wrote another famous story as a result of the 1816 ghost-story challenge?

- A. ☐ Robert Louis Stevenson
- B. ☐ William Godwin
- C. ☐ Charles Dickens
- D. ☐ John Polidori

21. What story did John Polidori eventually develop?

- A. ☐ The Vampyre B. ☐ Dracula C. ☐ The Modern Prometheus D. ☐ The Last Man

22. What is the full title of Mary Shelley's novel?

- A. ☐ Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus B. ☐ Frankenstein; or, The Last Man
C. ☐ The Modern Scientist D. ☐ The Creature of Geneva

23. What does the subtitle "The Modern Prometheus" refer to?

- A. ☐ A famous scientist named Prometheus
B. ☐ The mythological figure Prometheus, associated with bringing fire to humanity
C. ☐ A Swiss mountain
D. ☐ A character in a ghost story

24. How old was Mary Shelley when she conceived the idea of Frankenstein?

- A. ☐ 25 B. ☐ 18 C. ☐ 30 D. ☐ 40

25. When was the first edition of Frankenstein published?

- A. ☐ 1814 B. ☐ 1816 C. ☐ 1818 D. ☐ 1831

26. How was the first edition published?

- A. ☐ As a newspaper serial B. ☐ Under Mary's name in one volume
C. ☐ Anonymously in three volumes D. ☐ Under Byron's name

27. Who wrote the preface to the first edition?

- A. ☐ William Godwin B. ☐ Lord Byron C. ☐ John Polidori D. ☐ Percy Bysshe Shelley

28. What happened to Mary's authorship after the first anonymous edition?

- A. ☐ Byron was permanently credited B. ☐ She was never identified
C. ☐ Her authorship became known over time D. ☐ Percy was always listed as the sole author

29. What did Mary Shelley continue to do after the initial idea at Geneva?

- A. ☐ Abandon writing completely B. ☐ Develop and revise the idea into a full novel
C. ☐ Turn it into a scientific textbook D. ☐ Give the story to Byron

30. Which themes make Frankenstein more than simply a horror story?

- A. ☐ Scientific ambition, responsibility, creation and the consequences of human actions
B. ☐ Fashion and sport
C. ☐ Travel and cooking
D. ☐ War strategy and economics

Watch Mary Shelley's
[trailer](#) & [biography](#)

