

Key Terminology

Context – the historical background or social circumstances in which a novel/play was written.

Genre – the type of text.

Plot – the events that create a narrative.

Framing Device - a narrative technique in which a story is surrounded by a secondary story.

Theme – a repeated idea in a novel or play.

Foreshadowing - a literary device used by a writer to give the reader a clue as to what will happen later in the text.

Connotation – a hidden meaning (a rose could have connotations of love).

Symbol - an object, an image, a person, a situation, or an action that suggests or represents other meanings.

Motif - Repeated images/objects in a text.

Protagonist – the leading character in a play.

Antagonist - a character who is used as a plot device, to set up conflicts, obstacles, or challenges for the protagonist.

Dramatic irony - when the audience is aware of something that the characters in a play aren't.

Gothic Literature - a genre of writing that involves mystery, terror and the supernatural. Often set in isolated locations.

Year 8: Play Study (Frankenstein)

Context

When? The summer of 1816 was known as the 'summer of no light' because the weather was so terrible.

Who? Mary Godwin and her lover Percy Shelley went to join Lord Byron and his writer friends on holiday in the Swiss Alps. There was a thunderstorm and the writers decided to have a ghost story competition.

Byron's friends (and his doctor Polidori) spent a lot of time discussing biology and 'the origins of life'. They were particularly interested in the scientist Luigi Galvani who had discovered that dead frogs' legs could twitch when struck by a spark.

What? Mary came up with the idea for the gothic novel during a 'waking dream' where she imagined a terrifying monster coming into her room. The story was first published in 1818 but initially Mary didn't reveal she was the writer.

Theatrical Terminology

Stage Directions - information in *italics* that act as instructions for the director and the actors in a play.

Setting - where the novel/play takes place.

In a play the visual representation of setting is called **set design**.

The **staging** is how the audience are seated.

Costume - the clothing a character wears in a play.

Prop – an object used on stage by actors during a performance.

Key Themes in the play

Identity – the things that make a person who they are

Ambition – a goal or aim.

Prejudice – a preconceived opinion about someone/something.

Justice - the process or result of using laws/morality to fairly judge.

The Plot

Prologue: Captain Walton describes meeting Frankenstein in the artic. He explains Frankenstein had been following a 'strange creature'. He brought Frankenstein on board the ship to tell his story.

Act 1: Victor Frankenstein explains to his friend Clerval that he is conducting an experiment involving body parts. Elizabeth arrives and tells Frankenstein that his father is ill. Ignoring her, Frankenstein creates the Monster – who escapes.

Act 2: We meet Agathe and Felix who live a simple life in a cottage in the forest. When Felix goes out, the Monster introduces himself to Agathe and they get on well. Suddenly, Felix enters. He believes the Monster is attacking Agathe – and shoots him.

Act 3: Frankenstein discovers his brother William has been killed. The Monster arrives and admits he has strangled William in an act of revenge. He also informs Frankenstein that he has two years to create him a wife.

Act 4: Clerval and Elizabeth try to destroy the Monster's wife. The Monster arrives and kills Clerval and Elizabeth. Frankenstein vows to destroy the Monster, following him to the ends of the earth.

Epilogue: Captain Walton informs us that not long after telling his story, Frankenstein died. The Monster leaves.



Week 1: Connotations and Context

- Find the 'Key Terminology' section of the Knowledge Organiser and complete the following:
 1. What is a connotation?
 2. What connotations do you already associate with 'Frankenstein'?
 3. What connotations do you associate with 'Gothic Literature'?
 4. What do we mean by the context of the play?

CHALLENGE: Find the 'Context' section of the Knowledge Organiser and create a mind map/spider diagram/brainstorm with the key 'Context' behind the writing of the play.