

Teacher's Frankenstein in the Novel and Film

1. Use the table below to list at least three observations you consider interesting or essential in the portrayal of Dr. Frankenstein and his scientific work in the novel and film. Include any observations of supporting elements such as other characters, feeling, actions, surroundings, climate, etc.

| Novel (1818) | Film (1831) |
|--|---|
| <p><i>Possible observations may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Frankenstein works alone and his work has been long and hard.</i> • <i>There are no details about his discovery, or how his creature became alive.</i> • <i>Frankenstein's joy of success is dampened by anxiety and, finally, by disgust of his creature.</i> • <i>The surrounding is dark and foreshadows a tragic outcome.</i> | <p><i>Possible observations may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dr. Frankenstein has an assistant as well as an audience.</i> • <i>The discovery of how to give life is attributed to a type of "ray," then lightning is used to bring the creature alive.</i> • <i>Frankenstein is elated by the sign of life in his creature and declares that he now knows "how it feels to be God."</i> • <i>The surrounding is dark and loud with stormy weather and the two characters in the background squirm with fear.</i> |

2. How is the mood of the scene in the novel and the film portrayed similarly or differently?

The mood in both novel and the movie is foreboding. The excerpts paint a dark and dreary feeling both in the physical surroundings as well as in Frankenstein's response to the creature. The movie clip also is set in a dark and torrential setting while other characters convey anxiety and fear.

3. What is Dr. Frankenstein's work? And how does he respond to the outcome of his endeavor?

Dr. Frankenstein uses scientific knowledge and methods to create and give life to a human. In the novel, Frankenstein the scientist is horrified by what he created and gave life to, while in the movie the scientist appears madly elated for his achievement and power it represents.

4. What may Dr. Frankenstein and his creature exemplify or represent in society?

Dr. Frankenstein is a man of science who pursues and obtains the knowledge to 'give life to his own creature.' A being created not by the law of nature but by science. His portrayals in the novel and the movie also personify Frankenstein as a recluse (novel) or seemingly mad (film).

Frankenstein's creature symbolizes society's fear of and warning against unintended consequences resulting from a new powerful scientific or technological discovery—a forbidden knowledge and power.