**B. General information about the book and the writer**

1. a The title of the book is Frankenstein or the modern Prometheus

b The main protagonist of the novel is a man called Victor Frankenstein, that’s why the first part of the title is called Frankenstein. The modern Prometheus is, according to the classic mythology, a titan, who stole fire from the gods and gifted it man. Prometheus was then tortured eternally for his crimes. Frankenstein brings the sparks of life into a creature, which he made and doesn’t know how to control. That’s why Frankenstein is similar to a modern version of Prometheus, so that explains the title.

c The title fits the story, because both parts of the title refer to protagonists from the novel.

1. a+b The book is written by Mary Shelley (born Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley). Shelley was born on the 30th of august, in 1797. She married the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was five years older than Shelley. When she was only 19 years old, she wrote the book Frankenstein (or the modern Prometheus). Other famous works written by Mary Shelley are: Valperga, The last man, The fortunes of Perkin Warbeck, Lodore and Mathilda. She died on the 1st of January, in 1851 at the age of 52.

3. a The book was published in the year 1818.

b Indicate whether the book is significant for the time when it was written. Tip: consider works by other writers, developments in society, other genres or themes that were important in the days when the book was written. I think the book is significant for the time it was written in, because Shelley’s novel is considered as the first science-fiction novel and. The genre gothic novel did also not long exist when the book was written. That is why this book is very modern for the time it was written in.

4. a The book has two genres: science-fiction and gothic novel

1. b Science fiction is a genre of fiction in which the story tells about science and technology not (yet) existing. Science fiction has always something to do with the principles of science. In Frankenstein, a scientist creates a monster and brings it to life. That is a form of science which is not (yet) discovered in real live. The creation of the monster is an important part of the story, so that is why this book is science-fiction. According to Oxford’s dictionary, a gothic novel is an English genre of fiction popular in the 18th to early 19th centuries, characterized by an atmosphere of mystery and horror and having a pseudo-medieval setting. The book was indeed written in the early 19th century, in which the genre gothic novel was popular, you can also say that the book has an atmosphere of mystery and horror. So that is why the book has the genre gothic-novel as well.

5. a I think the main theme of the book is prejudice.

b The book’s other themes are: hate, love, coming of age, death and revenge.

c Explain the theme or themes you mentioned with examples or quotations from the book. The definition of prejudice according to Oxford’s dictionary is harm or injury that results or may result from some action or judgment. Dr. Frankenstein creates a monster and many injuries and harm follow from that action, so that is why prejudice is the main theme of the book. As the story follows, the monster Frankenstein created murders several people that Frankenstein loved. So, in the story Frankenstein’s hate towards the monster grows. The creature hates Frankenstein too, because he is angry at him for being created by him. That is because the creature is very lonely, and nobody understands him. That is why hate is also a theme in this book. In this story, much love is shown. Mainly by Frankenstein to his family members, Frankenstein eventually marries his ‘cousin’, who is not actually his cousin by adopted sister. That is why love is another theme in this novel. Because this story starts when Victor Frankenstein was not even born and ends when Victor Frankenstein is a fully-grown man, coming of age is another theme in this book. In the book many people die, that affects a lot in this book, that is why death is also an important theme in this story. Victor Frankenstein takes revenge on the monster several times, and the monster takes revenge on Victor Frankenstein. That is why revenge is an important theme in the story as well.

6. a+b What is the setting (time and place) of the book? The book is written in the year 1818 and it throws back to the time where Frankenstein was young, and then the story continues and finishes just after Frankenstein dies. So the story takes place in the 18th and early 19th century. Frankenstein is born in Geneva, and that is where the most of the story takes place. Frankenstein studied in Ingolstadt in Germany, he spends a couple of years there and that is where he creates the monster. The story takes place in England as well, because that is the place where Frankenstein planned to create his next monster, after that he goes to Ireland. The story ends in the north of Europe, where he is saved by the captain and crew of a ship.

7. a The narrator in this story is a first person narrator.

b Give examples from the book that show the person of the narrator. The narrator of this story is R. Walton, he is the captain of the ship that eventually saved Victor Frankenstein. He starts with the letters he wrote to his sister about his journey to the northern part of Europe. In the book, Walton tells the story about Victor Frankenstein, which Frankenstein tells when he’s on board of the ship. Walton writes the book (except for the letters and the end of the book) in Frankenstein’s perspective. Walton ends his letters to his sisters with his name, that is how you can tell who sent the letters, the perspective changes in the end, Walton continues with his own perspective at the sentence, “When younger”, said he, “I believed myself destined for some great enterprise”.

8. a Write a short summary of the book in about 20 lines. Do not mention how it ends. The story begins with two letter written by Robert Walton to his sister, the letters are about Walton’s expedition to the north of Europe. Walton says in his letters that his boat is stuck in the ice somewhere near St. Petersburg, Russia. In his letters to his sister, Walton also complains about how bored he is and how badly he wants a worthy companion. Then Walton tells about how he discovered Victor Frankenstein and that he told him a story. The story is about Frankenstein’s life. Frankenstein is born in Geneva, Switzerland. His parents adopted a girl named Elizabeth, who Frankenstein calls his ‘cousin’. Frankenstein gets along very well with Elizabeth. When Frankenstein is only a child, his mother dies. When Frankenstein is older, he decides to study natural philosophy along with alchemy at the university of Ingolstadt in Germany. In Germany, Frankenstein manages to bring a body made of dead people’s pieces back to life by using Galvanism. Afterwards, Frankenstein is actually totally horrified by his creation. He calls it a monster. Frankenstein gets very ill after he made this monster, and stays in bed for several months. In this time Frankenstein gets nursed by his best friend, Clerval. Frankenstein returns to Geneva when he hears that his younger brother William is murdered. Frankenstein knows that the monster killed William, even though, the family servant Justine is accused of killing. Frankenstein does not tell anyone about the monster, he created. The result of this is that Justine is executed. When Frankenstein is at the moutains in Switzerland, he meets the Monster, who demands for a she-monster. If Frankenstein creates the she-monster, the monster will be gone for ever, so the monster’s promise was. To make the she-monster, Frankenstein goes to England, he takes Clerval with him. In England, Frankenstein does not finish his she-monster and the monster gets even angrier with Frankenstein and the monster says that he is gonna be there at Frankenstein’s wedding night. Then Clerval gets murdered. Frankenstein ‘flees’ to Ireland. Frankenstein there gets suspected of murdering Clerval. Eventually Frankenstein returns to Switzerland where he marries Elizabeth, tho at the wedding night, Elizabeth gets murdered by the monster. Frankenstein’s father dies shortly after that and Frankenstein decides to seek his monster to fight with him. Frankenstein goes far up north where he meets Walton and his crew, then he tells the story to Walton and Walton writes a book about it.

b www.readwritethink.org & <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankenstein> <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=5&ved=2ahUKEwihva2V6aDmAhUFY1AKHSlJDgkQFjAEegQIERAL&url=https%3A%2F%2Fblog.oup.com%2F2018%2F04%2Fmodern-prometheus-relevance-frankenstein-200-years%2F&usg=AOvVaw2fE6dlSgq96m1BQkCPwS2_> <https://www.lexico.com/definition/gothic_novel>



**C. Your own interpretation of the book**

9. a I think the underlying message of the book is that you should think about something before you do it, because you may regret it afterwards.

b Frankenstein creates his monster and regrets it afterwards, because the monster killed the people who were dear to Frankenstein. If Frankenstein had thought twice or maybe thrice, he would not have created because he would have understood that creating a monster is a not so good idea.

10. a The most important protagonists are Victor Frankenstein, the monster, Elizabeth, Clerval, Justine, William and Frankenstein’s father.

b Victor Frankenstein is a smart man, tho it seems that he is not very compassionate, especially not with the monster he created. The monster is very violent, out of revenge mostly. The monster is also very sad in the story. Elizabeth is the caring type of women who is a mother to the Frankenstein family after her ‘adopted’ mother died when she was younger.

11.

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| Name of  protagonist 1: | Frankenstein | Name of  protagonist 2: | The monster |
| Positive:  Frankenstein is very smart and finished his studies in just two years | Negative:  Frankenstein does not think twice before he does something, many problems followed out of this. | Positive:  Even though he is a hideous creature, he tries to get good contact with people, he does not succeed in this tho. | Negative:  The monster acts really violently out of revenge. Which is the opposite of a good idea. |
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12. a The most important moment in the book was when Victor Frankenstein created his monster.

b I think that the creation of the monster is the most important moment in the book, because almost all the problems that followed in the book were acts out of revenge, which resulted out of the creation of the monster. The moment that William, Clerval and Elizabeth were killed by the monster were all out of revenge to Frankenstein. The death of Jusitine and the father of Victor Frankenstein, resulted out of the deaths of William and Elizabeth, so those are indirect also committed by the monster.

13. a In the end of the book, the perspective changes to Walton’s, because he actually told the story, but from Frankenstein’ perspective.

b I do not like the ending, because it is a really sad one, but the ending does fit to the story. That is why I do not hate it. I would also like to know how the life of Robert Walton continued, because we do not know much about him and the story does not say if Walton’s ship ever gets back to England.

14. a+b My overall opinion is that I liked the book. This story is actually a story in a story (except for the letters and the end of the book) I found it confusing when the perspective changed for a third time. That was when Frankenstein met the monster in the mountains and the monster told his story. That story was a story in a story in a story, and I found out much too late that the story had again changed perspective. So that is why I found that bit a bit confusing. I really liked the scientific bit in this story, even though it wasn’t real. The use of galvanism (cutting open bodies, find the nerves and then give a gigantic shock to it so that the body part moves) was actually widely used in experiments at the time this book was written. In the book, Frankenstein used galvanism to such a quality that it could bring the good parts of several bodies sticked together back to life.