

FRANKENSTEIN THINK TANKS

Sign up for one of the following think tanks...

THEN ...as you read your novel keep a dialectical journal of passages and responses that are relevant to your think tank's concerns.

1. scientific ethics

You'll be exploring the timeless debate over man's responsibility and moral conflict with scientific discovery.

2. feminism

You'll be exploring the feminist agenda that Mary Shelley weaves between the lines of the text.

3. mythical and Biblical allusions

You'll be uncovering the many parallels between the Prometheus myth and /or the Biblical story of Adam and Eve--Shelley alludes to both.

4. nature vs. nurture

In attempting to discover what makes a monster monstrous, you'll be exploring the ongoing debate between nature and nurture and how it relates to parental and societal responsibility

5. psychological analysis

Given the fact that most people refer to the monster as Frankenstein and that most readers mistake Victor for Robert Walton, you could explore why Mary Shelley creates confusing sets of doubles in her novel and /or why she avoids naming her monster...who or what might the monster represent?

Sample dialectical journal for #4 nature vs. nurture...

Passage

"I have a pretty present for my Victor. Tomorrow he shall have it!"(21).

Response

It is no wonder that Victor grows up to treat his "progeny " like a toy that can be discarded at will. He has been nurtured by parents who thought of children as pretty possessions.

Sample dialectical journal for #2 feminism...

Passage

"I have a pretty present for my Victor. Tomorrow he shall have it!"(21).

Response

From the time he was a toddler, Victor has been instructed to consider women his playthings. Furthermore, they must be pretty in order to be worthy possessions.