

Knowledge organiser	Subject	Year	Term	Unit Title	Version
	English	8	2a	<i>Frankenstein (abridged)</i>	Dec. 2024

### CONTEXTS: The author

#### Mary Shelley



a writer in the early 19th Century. She was the daughter of feminist philosopher Mary Wollstonecraft, and the political radical William Godwin

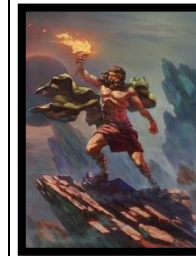
Mary Shelley's mother died in childbirth

Mary Shelley was given a far more extensive education than women typically received at the time

At the age of 16 Mary ran away with the Romantic poet Percy Shelley

### CONTEXTS: The Myth of Prometheus

#### Prometheus



Prometheus was a Titan, one of the gods of Ancient Greece

Prometheus wanted to improve life for humans

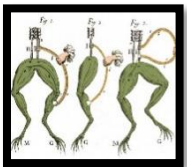
Prometheus begged Zeus – king of the Gods – to give the humans fire. This would help them to survive and develop.

Zeus denied Prometheus' request. Prometheus was outraged and gave humans fire anyway.

Zeus punished Prometheus by chaining him to a rock and sending an eagle to eat his flesh – forever.

### CONTEXTS: Science

#### "Natural Philosophy"



In the 19th Century, "science" was often known by the name "natural philosophy"

some people felt that by investigating the natural world was overstepping role of religion in society

some people believed that scientists were beginning to replace God with science entirely

new branch of natural philosophy was called "galvanism": the temporary re-animation of dead bodies – mostly animal, but occasionally human

### CONTEXTS: Literature

#### The Romantics



Shelley was one of the Romantics – a group of writers who produced books between 1780 and 1830

The Romantics were very interested in emotions and in the relationship between humans and nature

### USEFUL LINKS

#### BBC Documentary on The Romantics

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mfj>

#### BBC Bitesize – Key Romantic writers

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zhv96v4>

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## NARRATIVE: Plot

1	This section is narrated by a character named <b>Robert Walton</b> . <b>It is from the very start of the book, but from the end of the story...</b> <b>How can this be?</b> Walton is an ambitious man who has been exploring the Arctic. He writes a letter to his sister about meeting a starving man that he finds stuck on the ice, talking about suffering and the risks of discovery and ambition...	6	This section is narrated by Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein describes how, after the attack, he walks to the top of a mountain to give him space to reflect upon recent visits. The creature then finds him and talks to him...
2	This section is narrated by a character named <b>Victor Frankenstein</b> . In this chapter, he explains his background, his family and his childhood. This part of the story is set BEFORE Robert Walton's letter to his sister.	7	This section is narrated by Victor Frankenstein. He describes a conversation between himself and the monster. In this extract, the monster demands something from Frankenstein. The extract starts with the monster speaking...
3	This section is narrated by Victor Frankenstein. In this extract, he has left home and arrived the university of Ingolstadt where he has started to study science...	8	This section is narrated by Victor Frankenstein. He describes a conversation between himself and the monster. In this extract, the monster becomes angry because Frankenstein has destroyed the female that he had been making for the creature...
4	This section is narrated by Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein describes the night that he brings his creature to life. He then describes his reaction to the creature he has created. Towards the end he describes a nightmare in which he sees both his fiancé, Elizabeth, and his mother dying...	9	The creature has kept his promise and has killed Frankenstein's wife, Elizabeth, and best friend, Henry. Frankenstein becomes consumed with rage and seeks vengeance... He pursues the creature into the frozen arctic, hoping to kill the monster that he created...
5	This chapter is told by the creature himself. He explains how he ran away from Frankenstein to hide in the forest. One day, he discovers a family living in small cottage. He becomes fond of the family, and tries to help them. They are grateful, the creature begins to find happiness, until they actually meet him face to face...	10	This section is narrated by <b>Robert Walton</b> – the man who has been exploring the Arctic. This is part of another letter that he wrote about another strange event in the Arctic: a strange creature climbed aboard his boat to find his creator, Victor Frankenstein, dead...