

# The "Letters" of *Frankenstein*

## [Searching for the Gothic]

**DIRECTIONS:** The class is going to be divided into five groups, each responsible for searching for the presence of a different Gothic convention in the opening of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. In addition to locating at least two excerpts containing the assigned convention, each group must speculate as to how this convention will affect the novel as a whole.

### SUPERNATURAL/UNNATURAL FORMS

Locate at least two instances in the "Letters" in which otherworldly elements may be at play.

### SPECULATION

Although we are just beginning *Frankenstein*, what role might this convention play in the novel?

### SPACE/STRUCTURES

Locate at least two instances in the "Letters" in which foreign lands and buildings themselves may be at play.

### SPECULATION

Although we are just beginning *Frankenstein*, what role might this convention play in the novel?

**THE PAST**

Locate at least two instances in the "Letters" in which consequences of the past may impact the present!

**SPECULATION**

Although we are just beginning *Frankenstein*, what role might this convention play in the novel?

**PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**

Locate at least two instances in the "Letters" in which terror, horror, or uncertainty about reality are present!

**SPECULATION**

Although we are just beginning *Frankenstein*, what role might this convention play in the novel?

**SOCIAL DILEMMAS**

Locate at least two instances in the "Letters" in which issues of class, authority, xenophobia, or religion abound!

**SPECULATION**

Although we are just beginning *Frankenstein*, what role might this convention play in the novel?

