***Frankenstein* Analytical Essay Assignment**

**Task:**

You are to analyze a major aspect of *Frankenstein*. Think about some of the themes we’ve discussed (effect of isolation, significance of nature/nurture, development, parental responsibilities, gender ideas, etc.). Using your own ideas, class presentations or class notes, develop an **original analysis** of a major aspect of the novel (a theme, an idea presented in the novel, etc.).

**Possible ideas:**

1. Develop the importance of a particular theme and make a generalization or value judgment on that particular theme

* 1. What is a major theme in *Frankenstein*? What significance does Shelley attach to the theme? **MAKE SURE YOUR ANALYSIS HAS NEW INSIGHT FROM ANYTHING PRESENTED IN CLASS!!!**
  2. Ex. *Napoleon Dynamite* not only gives audiences as a vision of the triviality of small town life in America, but also shows the ambivalence and numbness of American youth.

2. Make an arguable statement about a particular character (i.e. his or her traits) and discuss the significance of that particular trait.

a. How does Victor’s hubris (arrogance) become his greatest weakness? What symbolic elements does Shelley use to track his demise?

b. How are Robert (or the creature) and Victor alike and different? What purpose does this comparison serve?

c. Ex. Tyler Durden in *Fight Club,* while fundamentalist, should be viewed as a victim; his eventual destruction by conformity is representational of individuals in today’s society not being able to triumph over “accepted” morals and values.

3. Discuss the novel’s shifts in narrative perspective. What is the effect of presenting different characters’ viewpoints, especially those of Victor and the monster?

4. Discuss the presentation of women in the novel. Do Victor and the monster differ in their view of women, and if so, how?

5. Discuss the role of sickness in the novel. Victor often seems to fall ill after traumatic events. Is this a means of escape, and, if so, is it effective? Is there another explanation for his recurring illness?

6. Trace the similarities between Victor and the monster. Consider their respective relationships with nature, desires for family, and any other important parallels you find. Do Victor and the monster become more similar as the novel goes on? How does their relationship with each other develop?

7. Victor attributes his tragic fate to his relentless search for knowledge. Do you think that this is the true cause of his suffering? In what ways does the novel present knowledge as dangerous and destructive?

8. Examine the role of suspense and foreshadowing throughout the novel. Do you think these devices are effective, or does Victor’s blatant foreshadowing reveal too much? How does foreshadowing differ among the three main narrators (Walton, Victor, and the monster)?

9. Other ideas are welcome! Please conference with me **in the next two days.**

**Assignment Guidelines**

**Introduction:**

1. Creative attention-getter
2. Mention author and title (Spelled correctly! Correct punctuation on title!)
3. Essential background on the literary work (if needed; as relating to your thesis)
4. Clear thesis statement WITH AUTHOR AND TITLE

**Body Paragraphs:**

1. Topic sentences
2. Concrete details that support thesis
3. Commentary/analysis/argument- idea thoroughly explored with all logical connections made for the reader.
4. **Quotations** from *Frankenstein* that support argument
5. Concluding sentence
6. Proper lead-ins and **citations** of ALL quotations

**Conclusion:**

1. Reflect on how your essay topic relates to the novel as a whole and what significance it has to society
2. Ties main points to thesis
3. DOES NOT INTRODUCE NEW IDEAS

**Point of View:**

1. Third Person
2. No “YOU”

**Language:**

1. Active verbs
2. Present tense
3. Combine sentences effectively

**MLA Format:**

1. Creative and original title

2. Heading with proper MLA format

**Due Dates (are subject to change)**

Essay Brainstorm and Thesis:

Formal Essay Outline:

Essay First Draft:

Peer Review:

Essay Final Draft:

**Grading Rubric**

# **Content Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Develop a **minimum** 3 page analysis essay that **does not exceed** 5 pages (5)

(25) - Have an arguable thesis that asserts an original idea (5)

- Cite concrete details and from the novel in each body paragraph (5)

- Includes at least one quotation per idea from the text to support idea/argument (5)

- Have effective logical explanations as support for your thesis (5)

Comments:

# **Organization Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Introduce your topic by catching interest, giving a thorough overview and

(20) your thesis in your introduction, also mentioning author and title of novel (5)

- Arrange main points in the most effective order, dividing paragraphs at main points (5)

- Conclude by tying main points back to thesis in general without restating, not introducing new information, but creatively restating your thesis, and having memorable ending (NOT a question) (5)

- Use transitions to connect ideas clearly (5)

Comments:

**Voice Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Write in a sincere and knowledgeable voice (should reflect you clearly

(10) understood the novel) (3)

- Your audience is people who have read *Frankenstein* (2)

- Your purpose is to **analyze** and **prove** to your audience your thesis is valid (5)

Comments:

# **Word Choice Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Language must be sophisticated and formal, not simple and/or vague (3)

(5) - Avoid weak or passive verbs: use active verbs (1)

- Avoid dead words such as: *thing, stuff, good, bad, great, it, like, very, many,* *really, a lot*, *there,* and *that (1)*

Comments:

# **Sentence Fluency Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Construct clear, complete sentences with variation in structure (3)

(5) - Avoid short sentences that make writing choppy; combine sentences instead(1)

- Avoid weak sentence openings such as, “There is” or “It is” (1)

Comments:

# **Conventions Requirements**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Use the third person point of view. Eliminate all use of *you*. (2)

(20) - **Blend and cite** quotations properly using your own words, preceded AND followed by explanatory sentences as your quote relates to a main point (6)

- Keep the verb tense consistently in *present tense* (2)

- Avoid errors in spelling, word usage, agreement, and punctuation (2)

- Avoid fragments and run-ons (2)

- Paper is typed, double spaced, using proper MLA format (6)

Comments:

**Responsibility**

-All parts of assignment completed ON TIME and TURNED IN WITH FINAL COPY

(15) - Essay Brainstorm and Thesis: (3 points)

- Essay Outline: (3 points)

-Essay First Draft: (3 points)

-Peer Review: (3 points)

-Essay Final Draft: (3 points)

Score and Comments: