

Frankenstein

Chapters 11–16

by Mary Shelley

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: abject, barbarity, cursory, despondence, gall, insupportable, loathsome, poignantly, squalid, wantonly

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Introductory Letters and Chapters 1–5 · Letters from an Arctic voyage

Section 2 · Chapters 6–10 · Recovery and a letter from home

Section 3 · Chapters 11–16 · The creature tells his own story

Section 4 · Chapters 17–20 · Victor weighs the creature's demand

Section 5 · Chapters 21–24 · Landing on an unknown shore

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Years of war had left the villagers in **abject** misery.

- A. utterly wretched
- B. sharp and sudden
- C. long and constant

2. The general was condemned for the **barbarity** of his treatment of prisoners.

- A. savage cruelty
- B. stubborn pride
- C. cold neglect

3. He gave the report only a **cursory** review before approving it.

- A. sharp and angry
- B. quick and shallow
- C. formal and official

4. After failing the exam a third time, she sank into **despondence**.

- A. bitter resentment
- B. deep dejection
- C. restless boredom

5. Years of being overlooked filled him with **gall**.

- A. bitter resentment
- B. stubborn defiance
- C. reckless nerve

6. The heat in the crowded train became **insupportable** by noon.

- A. impossible to ignore
- B. impossible to predict
- C. impossible to bear

7. A **loathsome** smell rose from the abandoned, flooded basement.

- A. heavy and smoky
- B. damp and musty
- C. disgusting and vile

8. The film's final scene affected the whole audience **poignantly**.

- A. with keen sadness
- B. with mild interest
- C. with sudden shock

9. The refugees were forced to live in **squalid** conditions for months.

- A. cramped and crowded
- B. cold and bare
- C. filthy and wretched

10. The vandals **wantonl**y smashed every window in the building.

- A. in total secrecy
- B. with reckless cruelty
- C. in a sudden panic

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

lichen — a slow-growing crustlike organism that clings to rocks and tree bark; here, the vehicle of a simile for how knowledge clings to the mind.

sanguinary — involving or eager for bloodshed; bloodthirsty.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	C
8	A
9	C
10	B

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Here, then, I retreated and lay down happy to have found a shelter, however miserable, from the inclemency of the season, and still more from the barbarity of man.”

As it is used in the passage, the word “barbarity” most nearly suggests that human beings have...

- A. behaved with poor manners
- B. behaved in strange, foreign ways
- C. treated him with cruelty

2 “They often, I believe, suffered the pangs of hunger very poignantly, especially the two younger cottagers, for several times they placed food before the old man when they reserved none for themselves.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the two younger cottagers, who gave their food to the old man...

- A. barely noticed their own hunger
- B. felt their hunger acutely and painfully
- C. resented going without food

3 “... when I became fully convinced that I was in reality the monster that I am, I was filled with the bitterest sensations of despondence and mortification.”

Which choice best describes the narrator’s attitude toward himself just after he sees his reflection?

- A. sunk in hopeless dejection
- B. filled with calm relief
- C. roused to angry defiance

4 “Through this work I obtained a cursory knowledge of history and a view of the several empires at present existing in the world; it gave me an insight into the manners, governments, and religions of the different nations of the earth.”

According to the passage, the knowledge of history the creature gained from Volney’s work was...

- A. broad but shallow
- B. deep and exact
- C. narrow but precise

5 “... to be base and vicious, as many on record have been, appeared the lowest degradation, a condition more abject than that of the blind mole or harmless worm.”

The author most likely compares a vicious man to “the blind mole or harmless worm” in order to...

- A. stress how low vice degrades a person
- B. show the creature’s love of nature
- C. praise the innocence of animals

6 “I heard of the division of property, of immense wealth and squalid poverty, of rank, descent, and noble blood.”

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Wealth and wretched poverty coexist
- B. Property is divided fairly among all
- C. The poor live humbly but with dignity

7 “I was, besides, endued with a figure hideously deformed and loathsome ... When I looked around I saw and heard of none like me. Was I, then, a monster, a blot upon the earth, from which all men fled and whom all men disowned?”

In the passage, the creature characterizes his own physical form as...

- A. clumsy and feeble
- B. plain and forgettable
- C. ugly and disgusting

8 “Many times I considered Satan as the fitter emblem of my condition, for often, like him, when I viewed the bliss of my protectors, the bitter gall of envy rose within me.”

In context, the phrase “the bitter gall of envy” emphasizes that the creature feels...

- A. bold nerve and shamelessness
- B. the torment caused by envy
- C. helpless grief and despair

9 “Why, in that instant, did I not extinguish the spark of existence which you had so wantonly bestowed?”

Calling the spark of his existence “so wantonly bestowed” primarily serves to...

- A. thank his creator for life
- B. blame his creator’s reckless act
- C. mourn how brief his life will be

10 “There was none among the myriads of men that existed who would pity or assist me; and should I feel kindness towards my enemies? No; from that moment I declared everlasting war against the species, and more than all, against him who had formed me and sent me forth to this insupportable misery.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the creature declares war because his misery has become...

- A. easier to bear alone
- B. a punishment he deserves
- C. impossible to endure

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	Character comprehension.
3	A	
4	A	
5	A	
6	A	
7	C	
8	B	Students often know 'gall' as nerve or audacity ('the gall to do that'); the sense the distractor 'bold nerve' targets.
9	B	
10	C	Event comprehension. Rejecting 'a punishment he deserves' relies on the De Lacey family's rejection, which the creature sees as unjust.

Teacher Context: Chapters 11–16

The creature narrates his own story: his bewildered awakening, his secret observation of the De Lacey family, his self-education in language and reading, and the family's history. His hopeful attempt to befriend the blind De Lacey ends in violent rejection, turning him to vengeance, and he murders William and frames Justine before demanding that Victor make him a companion. Section is the creature's embedded narrative, grouped as one unit and ending on his demand for a mate.