

Frankenstein

Chapters 21–24

by Mary Shelley

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: eloquence, fortitude, impotent, incredulity, insatiable, machination, malignity, omnipotence, retribution, superfluous

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. The senator's **eloquence** held the whole crowd spellbound.

- A. a booming voice
- B. persuasive speech
- C. clever humor

2. She faced her long illness with quiet **fortitude**.

- A. steady patience
- B. calm acceptance
- C. courage in hardship

3. The king was **impotent** to stop the rising flood.

- A. powerless
- B. unwilling
- C. slow

4. She stared at the lottery ticket with **incredulity**.

- A. disbelief
- B. great excitement
- C. deep suspicion

5. The puppy had an **insatiable** appetite for treats.

- A. never satisfied
- B. very picky
- C. unusually weak

6. Behind the throne lay the advisor's secret **machination**.

- A. a careful reform
- B. a quiet alliance
- C. a scheming plot

7. His eyes burned with pure **malignity**.

- A. burning grief
- B. deep ill will
- C. fierce pride

8. Ancient myths gave their gods near **omnipotence**.

- A. unlimited power
- B. eternal life
- C. total wisdom

9. The outlaws finally faced **retribution** for their crimes.

- A. deep regret
- B. deserved punishment
- C. a fair trial

10. The fancy decorations seemed **superfluous** for such a small party.

- A. expensive
- B. tasteless
- C. unnecessary

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

bier — a movable stand or frame on which a corpse or coffin is placed; here, figuratively, a place associated with death

riot — to indulge or revel without restraint; to give oneself up wholly to something -- here, to wallow unrestrainedly (not the common 'violent public disorder' sense).

contumely — insolent or contemptuous treatment; humiliating rudeness and scorn.

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 “Have my murderous machinations deprived you also, my dearest Henry, of life?”

As it is used in the passage, the word “machinations” most nearly refers to Victor’s...

- A. powerful machinery
- B. painful physical exertion
- C. secret, harmful scheming

2 “... but when he was called upon to act officially in consequence, the whole tide of his incredulity returned.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, once called to act officially, the magistrate...

- A. no longer believed Victor’s story
- B. feared the creature’s powers
- C. resented Victor’s harsh demands

3 “... but I have endured misery which nothing but the eternal sentiment of a just retribution burning within my heart could have enabled me to support.”

According to the passage, what alone enables Victor to endure his misery?

- A. a hope of finding peace
- B. a sense of deserved punishment
- C. a wish for honor and glory

4 “His eloquence is forcible and touching; nor can I hear him, when he relates a pathetic incident or endeavours to move the passions of pity or love, without tears.”

In the passage, Victor is characterized as...

- A. a blunt, plain-spoken man
- B. a moving, persuasive speaker
- C. a witty, amusing storyteller

5 “All my speculations and hopes are as nothing, and like the archangel who aspired to omnipotence, I am chained in an eternal hell.”

Victor compares himself to the archangel who “aspired to omnipotence” in order to...

- A. cast his ambition as overreach
- B. admit he has lost his faith
- C. frame his suffering as unjust

6 “... because it was full of dangers and terror, because at every new incident your fortitude was to be called forth and your courage exhibited ...”

As it is used in the passage, the word “fortitude” most nearly means...

- A. skill in avoiding danger
- B. eagerness for new adventures
- C. strength in facing hardship

7 “He showed unparalleled malignity and selfishness in evil ...”

Which choice best describes Victor’s attitude toward the creature here?

- A. pity for its suffering
- B. condemnation of its ill will
- C. awe at its cunning mind

8 “Your repentance,” I said, “is now superfluous.”

Which statement about the creature’s repentance is best supported by the passage?

- A. It comes too late to matter
- B. It is a bid for sympathy
- C. It shows he hopes for pardon

9 “... then impotent envy and bitter indignation filled me with an insatiable thirst for vengeance.”

The passage most strongly suggests that the creature’s thirst for vengeance...

- A. could never be satisfied
- B. soon faded after acting
- C. was rooted in fear

10 “... he could not sum up the hours and months of misery which I endured wasting in impotent passions.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the creature’s “impotent passions” were...

- A. violent, destructive rages
- B. feelings he kept hidden
- C. desires he could not fulfill

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	A	
3	B	
4	B	
5	A	
6	C	
7	B	
8	A	Event comprehension. The line comes just after Frankenstein's death, which is why Walton calls the creature's repentance pointless.
9	A	
10	C	Here 'impotent' means powerless or helpless, not the more common modern sense; the creature's longings were ones he had no power to satisfy.

Teacher Context: Chapters 21–24

The creature's revenge unfolds: Clerval is murdered and Victor is imprisoned and tried, then released to marry Elizabeth, who is killed on their wedding night. Victor's father dies of grief, and Victor pursues the creature across Europe to the Arctic, where Walton's narration resumes. Victor dies aboard the ship and the creature appears to mourn him before vanishing. Section runs to the end of the novel.