

# UWC21010 - Writing & Critical Thinking: Monstrosity

## Pre-Writing Assignment Two: Close Reading a Literary/Written Text

This brief assignment involves your writing a 250-300 word paragraph on a short segment of your choice from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

### Instructions:

1. As you read through the novel, identify segments of the text that intrigue, delight, or trouble you. Take note of the page numbers of these segments for easy reference later. Once you *complete* reading the novel, return to these segments again and decide on one that you find the most interesting. **Establish the limits of the segment:** there should be some kind of narrative or thematic logic to the beginning and ending of the segment you have chosen, and it should generally not exceed 1000 words in length. (This is an approximation; you do not need to actually count the number of words.)
2. **Make a photocopy of the segment.** When you copy it, please ensure that you leave enough room in the margins of the photocopy for you to write on. Next, read through the passage closely. **Mark out the segment:** Highlight, circle, or underline significant words, words you do not understand (which you need to check the dictionary for their meanings), or words that intrigue you; link the words with lines of connection; and finally **annotate** the text by making notes on the margins. Reflect on the aspects of the text such as character, plot, themes, setting, and diction. Think through the connotative and denotative meanings of words. Consider the deeper philosophical meanings and assumptions of the segment.
3. **Write a brief paragraph** of 250-300 words on **one aspect** of your brainstorming / analysis of the segment.
4. **Hand in both the paragraph and the photocopy of the segment.** Be sure to staple them together.
5. This assignment is due on **26 January 2004**. Bring an extra copy of the paragraph to class in case I call on you to share with your classmates what you have written.