

**2010 Summer Reading Assignment**  
**Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School**  
**AP English IV**

Read Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and respond to **one** of the following prompts. Your response must be 3-5 pages using MLA format and typed in 12 point Times New Roman font. Use evidence from the text to support your thesis. The rubric for the paper is as follows:

50 points □ evidence/support from text

50 points □ MLA format and grammar/mechanics (avoid 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> person, no "to be" verbs, stay in literary present tense, each paragraph must have two direct short quotations as textual support)

**This essay is due the first day of class.** If you fail to turn in this assignment, you will receive a 60 "F" and will be required to finish the essay during SMART lunch.

1. Explain the novel's popularity. What makes the novel a classic? How is the story appropriate for today and our society?
2. Some feminist critics make a connection between the creature's situation and the plight of women in early 19th century England. How can you make a case for this point-of-view? In what ways are the creature and Victor Frankenstein "feminized"?
3. Writers often highlight the values of a culture or a society by using characters who are alienated from that culture or society because of gender, race, class, or creed. Choose a character that plays a significant role in the narrative and show how that character's alienation reveals the surrounding society's assumptions and moral values.
4. What is the purpose of using a "frame" to tell Victor's story? Remember that a frame tale is a story within a story (think about the movie, The Neverending Story). Why does Shelley begin with letters to Mrs. Seville in England (outside frame) and then move inward? First we hear Robert Walton's story, then Victor's, then the monster's. What additional meaning does this particular formatting add to the narrative?

Think about Victor as an anti-hero. An anti-hero is a central character that lacks traditional heroic qualities and virtues (such as idealism, courage, and steadfastness); however, the audience still manages to feel sympathy for him. While we may not like Frankenstein, could we in some way pity or empathize with his situation?

Be ready to discuss the text in great detail and to be tested on the novel during the first week of school.