

Name _____

Date _____

Frankenstein
Opening Letters: Reading Guide

I. Vocabulary: Be able to define the following words and understand them when they appear in the novel. Also, be prepared to be quizzed on these words.

climes: climates

fervent: enthusiastic

satiate: satisfy completely

ardent: enthusiastic

ascertain: discover; find out

emaciated: unnaturally skinny

melancholy: extreme sadness

perilous: dangerous

manifest: appear

countenance: face

paroxysm: sudden outburst

II. Questions: answer the following questions while you read to check your comprehension.

1. Who is Walton writing to?
2. What has Walton tried to do in vain?
3. How will Walton satiate his curiosity?
4. What is the benefit Walton will give to mankind by his voyage?
5. What did Uncle Thomas's library provide for Walton as a youth?
6. What were Walton's father's dying wish for Walton?

7. When Walton tried to be a poet, who did he want to be equal to?
8. What did Walton do to train himself to be able to go on his current voyage?
9. What is the one want that Walton has never been able to satisfy?
10. Walton tells a story of the man he has hired as Master for his voyage. What happened when the woman he wanted to marry didn't want to marry him?
11. In letter IV, what does Walton say he sees after the fog clears?
12. Describe the stranger that Walton picks up.
13. If the stranger hadn't been so broken, what does Walton say he would have like to do with him?
14. What is the stranger continually watching for?
15. Walton says that this stranger seemed to despise himself for what?
16. The stranger uses a metaphor to compare desire for knowledge and wisdom to a _____.
17. Why has the stranger chosen to tell Walton his story?