

Name _____
Date _____

Frankenstein
Chpts. 1 & 2: 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.

Genevise: citizen of Geneva, Switzerland

syndic: government magistrate of Geneva, Switzerland

natural philosophy: old term for physical science

Cornelius Agrippa (1486-1535): magician and cabbalist

disposition:

hitherto: until now

penury: extreme poverty

abode: home

cherub: angel

smitten: marked by foolish or unreasoning fondness or enthusiasm

predilection: preference

cursory: quick and not thorough

tyro: beginner

elixir: liquid with magical powers, usually to extend life

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

Chpt.1

1. What do we learn of Victor Frankenstein's family background?
2. Why did Victor's father wait so long to get married?
3. What happens to Beufort?
4. What do we learn of Caroline Beaufort's character?

5. What does Victor's father do with Caroline Beaufort after her father's death?
6. What are some of Victor's earliest recollections?
7. What was Victor's mother's passion during her trips?
8. What do Victor and his mother find at a poor home with five children?
9. Victor's mother said to Victor, "I have a pretty present for my Victor--tomorrow you shall have it." Explain this present.

Chpt. 2

10. What was the age difference between Elizabeth and Victor?
11. What is the difference between Elizabeth and Victor in what they spend their time and attention on?
12. How much younger was Victor's brother?
13. After the birth of Victor's brother, how did his mother and father change their lifestyle?
14. What was Victor's attitude toward his schoolfellows?
15. Who is Henry Clerval?
16. How does Victor feel about his childhood?
17. What type of knowledge attracted Victor's attention?
18. According to Victor, what is one of Clerval's dreams?
19. Which thinker gets Victor really interested in natural philosophy?
20. What is Victor's father's response upon learning who Victor is reading?
21. Why does Victor blame his father his drive for knowledge?