

PLAY: *Frankenstein* • SKILL: Literary Elements and Devices, page 1 of 4

Back to Basics: Literary Elements and Devices

Identifying the basic elements of a literary work can help you understand it better. Use this activity to help you understand the play *Frankenstein*. See *Scope's* "Glossary of Literary Terms" for definitions of the words that appear in bold.

Section 1: Characters

1. For the characters of Victor and the creature, and one character of your choice: (1) decide whether the character is **major** or **minor** and (2) briefly describe the character, including his or her appearance, personality, and background; (3) decide whether the character is **static** or **dynamic** and explain why.

A. VICTOR is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because:

B. THE CREATURE is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because:

C. is a **major** **minor** (check one) character.

Description: _____

He/She is a **static** **dynamic** (check one) character. I think so because:

2. Consider Mr. De Lacey. What is his purpose in the play? Why does the author include him?

3. The creature commits numerous horrible murders, but he is still a sympathetic character—that is, he is a character the reader cares about. How does the author create sympathy for the creature in the reader?

4. Consider the **characterization** of Victor, and give two examples of **indirect characterization** of Victor.

Section 2: Setting

5. Briefly describe the **setting**.

6. How many different locations are included in the play? _____

7. Many of the scenes take place in remote or isolated locations. List those scenes and locations.

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Section 3: Imagery

8. Describe two examples of **imagery** in the play. State which sense each one appeals to and what you think the author was trying to communicate or accomplish through it.

Section 4: Tone and Mood

9. List at least two adjectives that describe the **tone** of the play.

Now explain how the author established that **tone**. Which words and details tell you how the author feels about the characters and the subject matter?

10. What is the **mood** of the play? Does it stay the same throughout the play, or does it change? Explain.

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Section 5: Plot

11. Most of the play takes place in an extended **flashback**. In which scene does this flashback begin? In which scene does it end?

On whose past experiences does this extended **flashback** focus? _____

12. One of the scenes within the extended **flashback** is another flashback. Which scene is it? _____

On whose past experiences does this **flashback** focus?

13. Arrange these plot points chronologically. Write a number, 1–5, next to each event below to show the order in which the events occurred in time.

___ Victor meets the creature in the mountains outside Geneva.

___ Captain Robert Walton and his crew find Victor.

___ Justine is executed.

___ The creature meets Mr. De Lacey.

___ Victor and Elizabeth get married.

14. What is the **climax** of the play? How do you know?

15. What is the primary **external conflict** in the play?

16. Identify which two characters face **internal conflicts**; describe these conflicts.
