

# Frankenstein

by Mary Shelley

## Study Guide

by Calvin Roso  
Andrew Clausen

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Frankenstein Study Guide  
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## *Frankenstein Study Guide*

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## Synopsis

*For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight.*

—1 Corinthians 3:19

Robert Walton is a young man driven by his desire for knowledge and exploration—he wants to make his mark on the world. In a series of letters to his sister, Walton describes how passion for discovery takes him to the Arctic, and he relates to her his thoughts and experiences as he searches for new frontiers.

But he finds something entirely different. As the sea ice closes in on his ship, he and his crew sight a strange, gigantic being driving a dogsled across the frozen wasteland, finally disappearing into the distance. The next day they find an ill and dying man floating on a fragment of ice and persuade him to come on board for his safety.

As his ship lies trapped by the surrounding ice, Walton spends many hours talking with the ill man, a Victor Frankenstein of Geneva. As they talk, Frankenstein slowly tells his story to Walton.

Frankenstein, too, was driven by a desire to make a name for himself, to forge ahead into realms in which no other man had trod. He searched the fields of biology, chemistry, and electricity for the secret to life and creation.

Frankenstein succeeded in understanding what no other man had comprehended, and he soon put his knowledge to gruesome practical application—making a man. He succeeded also in this; but with his success came horror and consequences beyond his imagination. From death he had created life; but from the life he had created he reaped only death. Frankenstein finally vowed to destroy his creation.

The monster ridiculed and taunted his maker, leading him on a desperate race that would finally end in the icy Arctic.