

## Online *Frankenstein* Resources

There are a range of helpful open-access external resources which are useful for further study. We have collated a suggested list of articles, podcasts and videos which we hope you will find useful.

### General Resources

[The \*Frankenstein: Texts and Contexts\* site](#) from Wentworth Institute of Technology collects an excellent range of articles on *Frankenstein*.

[The Pennsylvania Digital Edition](#) is incomplete in places but features a huge amount of helpful material, including [character profiles](#), a [plot summary](#), brief notes on [political, scientific and literary contexts](#), many [critical essays](#), [early reviews of the novel](#), and a [cross-referenced list of themes](#).

[10 things you should know about \*Frankenstein\*](#) a five-minute video taster by Professor Nick Groom of Exeter University.

[Everything you need to know to read \*Frankenstein\*](#) - A five-minute TED talk animation.

[Mary Shelley's \*Frankenstein\* in charts](#) from The Guardian.

[An Introduction to \*Frankenstein\*](#) by Stephanie Forward of the Open University.

[Oxford University's '10 minute book club'](#) on *Frankenstein*.

The British Library hosts [a series of articles on the Gothic, science and \*Frankenstein\* and related topics](#).

[\*Frankenstein: the Afterlife of Shelley's Circle\*](#) was an exhibition at the New York Public Library and the site hosts links to essays on a range of topics, with particular strengths in the scientific context of Mary Shelley's work and *Frankenstein* on film.

[In Our Time](#) radio programme providing a detailed overview of *Frankenstein*, featuring researchers including Professor Karen O'Brien from the University of Oxford.

[The Infinite Monkey Cage](#) radio programme: Professor Brian Cox discusses the significance of *Frankenstein*.

### The Shelly-Godwin Archive

This fascinating archive gives access to the manuscripts of *Frankenstein* and other writings in the [Shelley-Godwin archive](#), where you can view photos of the original notebooks and the diplomatic transcription to look in more detail at the revisions to the text.

## Mary Shelley's Life

[Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley](#): a thorough biographical summary from The Poetry Foundation.

[The Strange and Twisted Life of \*Frankenstein\*](#) a lively summary of Mary Shelley's life from The New Yorker magazine. It also explores the political context for the novel, particularly the abolition of slavery and the influence of slave narratives on the image of the self-taught creature.

[Mary Shelley: A Biography](#): a mini documentary from the National Theatre.

[Mary Shelley, \*Frankenstein\* and the Villa Diodati](#): a British Library summary of the circumstances in which Mary Shelley drafted *Frankenstein* in summer 1816.

## Political and Scientific Contexts

[The science of life and death in Mary Shelley's \*Frankenstein\*](#): a British Library essay on contemporary theories on galvanism and the ambiguous definition of life and death.

[Spark of Being: Electricity and the Human Body](#): a brief introduction to the importance of research into electricity on Mary Shelley's first novel.

[Inventing the Future](#): a British Library essay on the impact of lectures by Humphrey Davy on Mary Shelley's characterisation of *Frankenstein* as a 'modern Prometheus'.

[The monster reads Milton: \*Paradise Lost\*](#): an essay from New York Public Library on Milton's influence on *Frankenstein*.

[Beyond Belief: \*Frankenstein\*](#): BBC radio programme on the religious context of *Frankenstein*, particularly Milton's influence.

[Automata and \*Frankenstein\*](#): the influence of mechanical devices which appear to come to life and an earlier French '*Frankenstein*' are explored in this essay from New York Public Library. For a full discussion of a French text describing an inventor named *Frankenstein* who creates an artificial man, written 30 years before Mary Shelley's novel was published, see Julia Douthwaite's [The \*Frankenstein\* of the French Revolution](#).

[The Myth of Prometheus](#): a quick animated introduction to the myth which provides the subtitle for *Frankenstein*.

[Fathers, sons, and monsters: Rousseau, Blake, and Mary Shelley](#): an article in Nature exploring the influences of Rousseau and Locke's ideas of education in the context of father-son relationships. You might want to extend your reading of this article by considering Mary Wollstonecraft's *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters*.

[The Monstrosity of Parental Involvement: Formation Through Reading in Shelley and Rousseau](#): questions the idea that Shelley's critique of Victor Frankenstein focuses on his lack of care for his creation.

[A \*Frankenstein\* Atlas](#) looks at the novel through a spatial lens, and includes maps and essays on [The Polar Voyage](#) and [Slavery and Race in \*Frankenstein\*](#), examining contemporary theories of race, abolitionism, and anxieties about the status of formerly enslaved people.

## Afterlife and Contemporary Significance of *Frankenstein*

[‘Frankenstein’ Reflects the Hopes and Fears of Every Scientific Era](#): an article from The Atlantic magazine on the complex cultural legacy of Mary Shelley’s novel, which is more than a cautionary tale for science.

36-minute podcast in which [Professor Nick Groom explores the significance of \*Frankenstein\*](#), comparing it to the more familiar film versions.

[Why read \*Frankenstein\* in 2018?](#) A 51-minute filmed lecture from Professor Nick Groom on the contemporary significance of *Frankenstein*.

[Reanimation – the lasting impact of Mary Shelley’s \*Frankenstein\*](#) consists of seven short animated films exploring *Frankenstein*’s continued resonance in the fields of science, ethics, and philosophy.

[Frankenstein: Exploring the play at home](#) is a resource from The National Theatre including a series of short films about adapting *Frankenstein* for the stage.

A series of essays from New York Public Library look at how early theatrical interpretations of *Frankenstein* fed into popular perceptions of the story before films created an indelible image of the green, bolt-necked creature: [Cultural interpretations of \*Frankenstein\*](#), [The monster that I am – faces of \*Frankenstein\*’s creature](#), and [The creature in the cinematic machine](#).

## Questions of Genre

[Science Fiction in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century](#): a lecture from Gresham College which places Mary Shelley’s work in the context of other early speculative fiction writers including Hoffmann.

[Frankenstein: Defining the Monster](#): a lecture by Heather Keenleyside on *Frankenstein* as one of modernity’s central myths, focusing on Enlightenment ideas about monstrosity.

[The origins of the Gothic](#): a British Library essay on the origins of the Gothic from *The Castle of Otranto* onwards.

[Frankenstein: graveyards, scientific experiments and bodysnatchers](#): a British Library essay on tales of terror and scientific experimentation.

[‘The face at the window’: Gothic thematics in \*Frankenstein\*, \*Wuthering Heights\* and \*The Turn of the Screw\*](#) compares the gothic features of these novels.

[Landscape and the Sublime](#): a British Library essay on Burke’s theory of the sublime and its influence on Romantic Literature

[A \*Frankenstein\* Atlas: the sublime and the beautiful](#): article mapping the sublime and the beautiful and providing extensive quotations to illustrate these contrasting aesthetic understandings of the natural world.

## Critical Responses to *Frankenstein*

[The Pennsylvania Digital Edition](#) collects many [critical essays](#) as well as [early reviews of the novel](#).

Two early reviews of *Frankenstein* are available from the British Library – one appeared in [the Edinburgh Magazine of March 1818](#) and the other was written by [Percy Shelley before the novel was published](#), but not printed until long after his death.

For the controversy over Percy Bysshe Shelley's role in editing *Frankenstein*, see Charles E. Robinson's detailed discussion in his [Introduction to the \*Frankenstein\* Notebooks](#).

[Masterclass: the \*Frankenstein\* notebooks at the Bodleian Libraries](#): Miranda Seymour, biographer of Mary Shelley, discusses the *Frankenstein* manuscripts in a one-hour seminar with experts from the Bodleian Libraries.

[Possessing Nature: The Female in \*Frankenstein\*](#): Anne K. Mellor's feminist analysis of the female and the natural in *Frankenstein*.