

Frankenstein: (c) Connections with *Paradise Lost*

☞ refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine the connection between the two works. See ☞ *Frankenstein* > The Context of *Frankenstein* > Literary Context > The Monster's Reading.
 - Victor and God (creators of new beings)
 - the Creature and God (he is for a while the 'master' of Victor)
 - the Creature and Satan (both rejected by their creator, both choose evil).
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Look at a number of creation myths. (There are plenty on the internet — or even in books!)
 - Students should find one each for homework in preparation for the lesson, and read/retell it to the class. Identify common characteristics.
 - Students could write their own imaginary one.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Read the epigraph to the novel. The obvious parallel is between the Creature and Adam (eg: both first creations, knowledge brings grief to both, the Creature wants a female companion like Eve).
 - Re-read Chapter 15. Find key quotations to support the parallel from this chapter and elsewhere in the novel.
 - Do the same for the parallels of:
 - Victor and Adam (knowledge bringing sorrow)
 - Victor and Satan (both over-reachers)
- These parallels could be shared around the class and with reports back. See ☞ *Frankenstein* > Religious and Philosophical context > The Bible: the Creation, Adam and Eve, the Fall.
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Script a short dialogue between John Milton and Mary Shelley.
 - Imagine that Milton has read *Frankenstein*.
- ❖ **Critical task:** What exactly, in your view, is Victor Frankenstein's sin? See ☞ A-Z Topics and Technical Terms > Sin. Also *Frankenstein* > Characterisation > Victor Frankenstein.
- ❖ **Extension task:** The direct references to *Paradise Lost* introduce God into the equation.
 - Discuss whether the novel suggests that God has been supplanted by science?