



## Frankenstein: (e) The role of nature

 refers to links on [www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** What role does nature play in this Romantic novel?
- ❖ **Opening Exercise:** Write a postcard home to a friend describing briefly a spectacular natural setting, and its effect on you.
  - Use either a real place or an imaginary one.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Read Letter 1, the second and third paragraphs.
  - Each student should choose six key words or phrases from this passage
  - Collate and compare the choices.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Allocate the following passages:
  - Letter 4 (near end, paragraph beginning 'Even broken in spirit as he is...')
  - Vol.1 Ch. 6 (3 paragraphs beginning 'The road ran by the side of the lake...')
  - Vol.2 Ch.1 (paragraph beginning 'About this time we retired...')
  - Vol.2 Ch.1 (2 paragraphs beginning 'I passed the bridge of...')
  - Vol.2 Ch.3 (first 5 paragraphs of the chapter)
  - Vol.2 Ch.8 (first 2 paragraphs of the chapter)
  - Vol.2 Ch.8 (3 paragraphs beginning 'The sun rose...')
  - Vol.3 Ch.1 (2 paragraphs beginning 'We had agreed to descend...')
  - Vol.3 Ch.2 (3 paragraphs beginning 'With this resolution I traversed...').
- ❖ At the beginning of the novel Nature is represented in a positive way. Students identify 3 or 4 key words or phrases, link nature to the mood/situation of the character involved, and state what aspect of nature is here.
  - Students report back with their findings, setting their passage in brief context. See  [Frankenstein > Imagery and Symbolism > Mountains and Lakes and Frankenstein > Imagery and Symbolism > the Arctic Regions.](#)
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Create a holiday advertisement for 'The Frankenstein Trail'.
  - What places would it visit?
  - If possible, look at examples of similarly themed holiday packages first.
- ❖ **Critical task:** Look at  [Frankenstein > Critical Approaches > Analysing a passage: example and comment.](#)
  - Write a similar analysis of the passage in Vol.3 Ch.3, which begins 'Nothing could be more complete...' and finishes '...I shudder to reflect on it.'
  - Concentrate mainly on the role of nature, but look for other points, too.
- ❖ **Extension task:** Both Victor and Walton want to control nature, partly to show that 'it can be done'.
  - Look again at Letter 1, and at Vol.1 Ch.3, to remind yourself what the two characters say. Both care more about conquering nature than about any risk to their own or anyone else's lives. Victor, particularly, thinks that he can improve on nature (by eliminating death).
  - What, finally, do you think Shelley is saying about such ambitions?