Frankenstein book review by Devyn

When making lists of references for parenting advice, *Frankenstein* has probably never made the cut, however the novel by Mary Shelley is an extremely nuanced story of a creator and his creation, and the subsequent consequences of neglecting the responsibilities that one has as a creator of a living thing. *Frankenstein's* status as a classic is not unfounded, it's a novel that incorporates timeless themes and a masterfully crafted story told by exceptional language. The novel should not necessarily be considered an easy read however, as the complexity of the language can prove to be an obstacle. Despite this, the novel is worth the extra time.

Shelley's novel blends complex characters and themes alongside artistic writing. She uses the juxtaposition of gothic horror alongside philosophical questioning that leaves the reader debating their own morals and the shades of gray that make up the world. The parallelism between Victor Frankenstein – a brilliant yet overly ambitious scientist – and Robert Walton – an ambitious explorer determined to reach the North Pole – isn't apparent at first glance, but through the nuanced storytelling in *Frankenstein* it's quickly discovered that the book is a harsh but necessary reality check on responsibilities, humanity, unchecked ambition, and the consequences of scientific exploration that is explored throughout every change in narrator. The structure of the novel, a frame story in which multiple perspectives and points of view are explored, contributes to the nuance of the tale. Shelley's writing style is not only vivid but also haunting. Her tranquil, immersive descriptions of the natural world alongside the horror of human behavior and emotion creates a vivid contrast that increases the tension that laces the novel.

Despite the depictions in modern popular culture, the original story of *Frankenstein* beats every other representation. The creature, never having been given a name, is far from the mindless, evil monster that the media and Victor himself thinks of him as. Shelley's creature is capable of deep emotion, he's intelligent, articulate, and well-read. The novel poses the question of who the real monster is – an innocent creature brought into the world and shaped by society around him, or society itself and the creator who abandoned his creation and subsequent responsibilities? The novel itself is a poignant essay on human morality and society, a thought experiment on how society shapes those who participate in it, and if people really are born evil, or if they're made that way by their environment.

Frankenstein isn't just a horror story to be read around a campfire, it's a reflection on loneliness and rejection. Shelley's writing and portrayal of her complex characters and deep emotion evokes both emotional connection and intellectual stimuli for the reader. *Frankenstein* is a novel that will leave the reader questioning themselves, those around them, and the world as a whole. As one of the earliest ancestors of science fiction, *Frankenstein* doesn't just do the job, it exceeds the expectations and raises the standard for all other media in the genre.