

ghost
writer™

FUN
AND
PUZZLES

DONNA'S JOURNAL



Monsters are imaginary creatures that come from legends or folktales. Storytellers often make their monsters look or act differently from humans, so that makes them scary to us—we don't understand them. Mary Shelley created one of the most famous monsters in her book *Frankenstein*, but there are many, many others. Here are a few that used to scare me. Which monster scares you?



Bigfoot

- is a giant, hairy apelike creature that walks upright in the wilderness of the northwestern United States and Canada.
- got its name from huge footprints a farmer discovered in a field in Northern California in 1958.
- is different from the yeti or Abominable Snowman—that monster lives in the icy Himalayan mountain range.
- is also known as Sasquatch





Loch Ness Monster

- lives in Loch Ness, a deep lake in Scotland. Loch is the Scottish word for lake.
- looks like a huge serpent or a dinosaur.
- was first spotted over 1,500 years ago.
- is also called Nessie.



Werewolves

- are humans who morph into hairy wolves during a full moon.
- can turn other humans into werewolves by biting or scratching them.
- can be killed only with silver bullets.

Vampires

- drink the blood of humans or animals.
- bite humans' necks with their sharp fangs to turn them into vampires.
- are very pale and don't have reflections in mirrors.
- hate garlic and sunlight.
- can enter a house only if they've been invited inside.



The Curtis Challenge



Before I read the book, I'd just assumed that Dr. Frankenstein was an evil mad scientist who made his horrible creation to cause harm. Now I know he created the monster because he loved science, not to scare anyone. He was a brilliant scientist, but his experiment went terribly wrong.

I can kind of relate. Last week in science class, we made baking soda and vinegar volcanoes. All my friends' volcanoes exploded, but mine barely went *pfffst*.

See how many smaller words you can make from the letters in **EXPERIMENT**.

Here are a few to get you started:

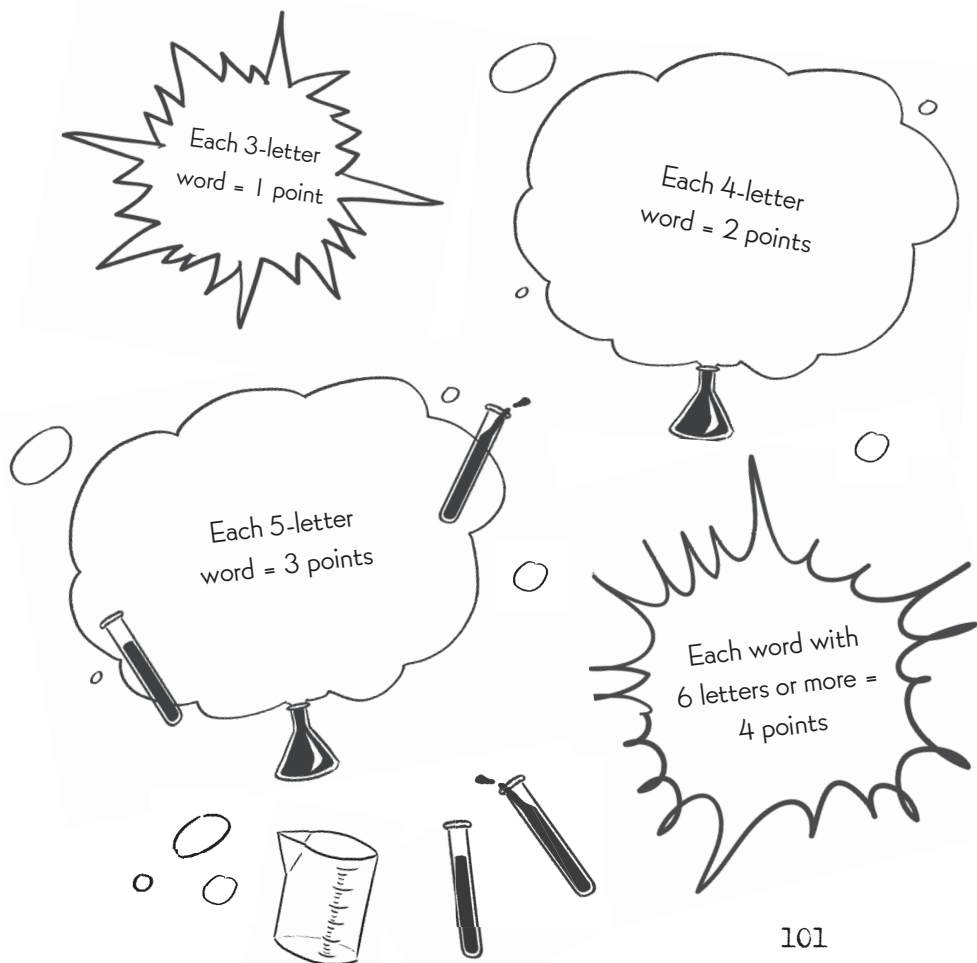
tie

item

empire

Write your answers on a piece of paper or type them on a computer. All words must be 3 or more letters. Can you score **20 points**?

Here's how to keep score



Ruben's Scramble



Dr. Frankenstein used human body parts to build his monster. Humans have external organs that everyone can see, such as eyes and ears. We also have internal organs that we can't see, and they allow us to breathe, digest food, and think. It's wild that we'll never see some of the most important organs in our body!

Can you unscramble the words below to discover the names of some internal organs? Then unscramble the bolded letters to answer the bonus question below.

RATHE _____

NABIR _____

CHOSTAM _____

GUNLS _____

SONBE _____

VELIR _____

NYDIEK _____

Bonus question: What is the largest organ in the human body? _ _ _ _ _

Answers on page 117.

Chevon's Amazing Definition Game



Dr. Frankenstein was *gregarious* when we met him—that means “friendly and talkative.” Wouldn’t expect that from a guy creating monsters, right? Talking to different people and learning from their experiences helps me be more outgoing. It’s an easy way to pick up new words and phrases—see what I did with gregarious?

Can you choose the correct word to complete each sentence?

1. I packed healthy snacks for our _____ across the city to the museum because I knew we’d be gone for a long time.

- a. magician
- b. addition
- c. expedition

2. When I stayed up past midnight, I was so tired I thought I spotted a kangaroo riding a unicycle across my kitchen, but it wasn't really there. It was just a _____.

- a. hallucination
- b. hiccup
- c. handshake

3. When I grow up, maybe I'll be a _____ and sell things, just like Ruben's grandfather does at Village Books.

- a. meerkat
- b. merchant
- c. mermaid

4. Or, when I grow up, I'll become a super famous author, and I'll have to hide out from all my swarming fans on a faraway, _____ island.

- a. remote
- b. raincoat
- c. raspberry

5. I was so excited when my debate team won the championships that I started laughing and crying _____.

- a. hysterically
- b. historically
- c. helpfully

6. I'm a _____ when it comes to sharks. There's no way you'll ever catch me swimming with them!

- a. cowboy
- b. coward
- c. daredevil

7. My mom was _____ with worry when I forgot to text that I was going to the bookstore instead of straight home.

- a. calm
- b. laughing
- c. frantic

8. The teacher demanded to know who ate the pretzels in the bowl on her desk, but it wasn't me. I wasn't even in class that day. I'm _____.

- a. innocent
- b. guilty
- c. sneezing

9. Last summer, I was sad when it rained the first day of our beach vacation, but after a week of rain and being trapped inside, I was in _____.

- a. joy
- b. misery
- c. love

10. Was it a _____ that Ruben was playing a monster in the school play right when a monster appeared in the bookstore?

- a. coconut
- b. coincidence
- c. confession

0–2 correct: **Time to try again.** Here's a hint: look for context clues in the sentences.

3–6 correct: **Good job!** You're on your way to being a true Word Warrior.

7–9 correct: **Vocab victory!** You're the Word Wizard!

10 correct: **Wow!** Now I know why you're called the Walking Dictionary!

Answers on page 117.

Chevon's Story Timeline

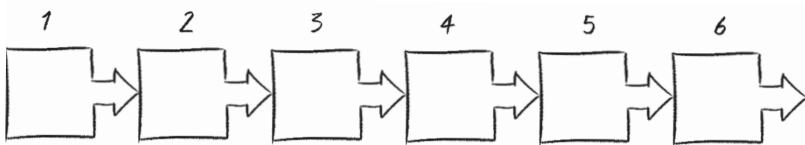


The author started and ended the book in the exact same way—with Captain Walton's letters to his sister. Dr. Frankenstein's scary story is sandwiched inside the letters. Sometimes when writers use a structure like this, it's called bookending.

Below is a list of the major events that happen to Victor, but they're all out of order. Place the letter in the correct box below. *Spoiler alert! Don't read any more if you haven't finished the book yet!*

- a. Victor learns his little brother was attacked by a creature.
- b. Justine, Victor's brother's babysitter, is put on trial.
- c. Victor creates a monster in his lab—and it comes to life!
- d. Victor is put in jail for Henry's death.
- e. After Elizabeth dies, Victor searches for his monster.
- f. Victor makes a second monster but destroys it.

Answers on page 117.



Curtis's Monster Story Starter



Here's how the *Frankenstein* book came to be.

When Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was eighteen years old, she and her friends had a contest to see who could write the best scary story. At first, Mary couldn't come up with one. Mary thought about it for weeks. Then one night she dreamed about a scientist who created a monster and then felt sorry that he did. She turned her dream into a story, and then into a book. Do you think Mary won the contest? For sure!

Do you want to write a monster story? Here's a good way to get started (besides taking a nap and dreaming!).

First fill in this information about your monster.

My monster's name is _____.

It looks like _____.

Its special powers are _____.

It loves _____.

It hates _____.

Donna's Draw-a-Monster



Lately, I can't stop drawing Dr. Frankenstein's monster all over my journal. I wanted to capture the different sides of his personality: intimidating, kind, sad—and obviously I added a few different outfits!

The monster's easy to draw! Here's how:

1. Draw a rectangle.



2. Draw a scary face on the rectangle.



3. Draw a zigzag across the top of the rectangle for hair.



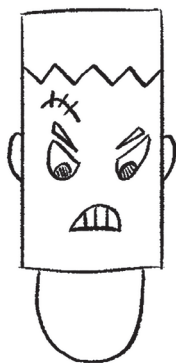
4. Draw stitches above one eyebrow.



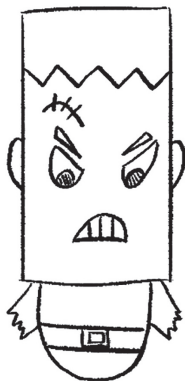
5. Add ears to the sides of the rectangle.



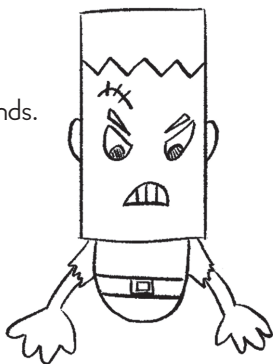
6. Underneath the rectangle, draw a cup shape for the body.



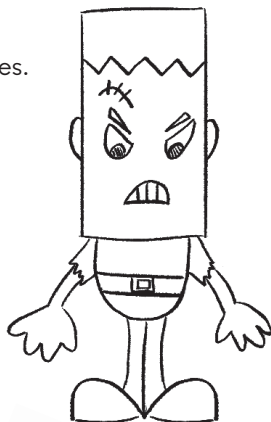
7. Add a belt and short shirtsleeves.



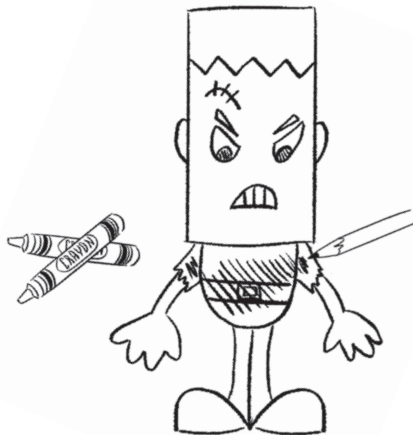
8. Draw arms and big hands.



9. Draw legs and big shoes.



10. Color in your monster.



Ghostwriter's Secret Letter

Captain Walton wrote letters to his sister during his Arctic journey. He told her about meeting Dr. Frankenstein and his terrifying tale.





I've written a letter just for you—but my letter is in a secret cipher! A cipher replaces a single letter with a different letter, number, or symbol. This is called *encrypting* a message.

The Pigpen Cipher is a very old cipher. It substitutes symbols for letters.

Pigpen Cipher

A	B	C	J	K	L		
D	E	F	M	N	O	T	U
G	H	I	P	Q	R	V	

	W	
X	•	Y
	•	
	Z	

A =  Q =  T =  Z = 

So the word *Ghostwriter* would look like:

77E7>7F7>0F

Use the key to decipher my letter.

707F 70770F,
7 7E^0 >E 7077
77077 77 7777.
7 <70 7< 77^77>07
>E 77^0 77<07.
770 <7< 7077 7<707,
7<7>77, 77777, 777
770777 7777 7<>
777 7 77?

77E7>7F7>0F

Answers on page 117.

Ruben's Reading List



If you liked *Frankenstein*, you'll also want to check out this list of spooky books I made. (Okay, I also might have had a little help from my grandpa to make this list. I mean, he owns a bookstore—

he's definitely the expert.) My advice: read in the morning or with the lights on, because these books will creep you out!

Bunnica: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery

by Deborah and James Howe

Classic Goosebumps: Night of the Living Dummy

by R. L. Stine

Doll Bones by Holly Black and Eliza Wheeler

Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka

My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish by Mo O'Hara

Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

Spirit Hunters by Ellen Oh

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste



Answers

Ruben's Scramble

HEART, BRAIN, STOMACH, LUNGS, BONES, LIVER,
KIDNEY. Bonus question: THE SKIN

Chevon's Amazing Definition Game

1. c, 2. a, 3. b, 4. a, 5. a, 6. b, 7. c, 8. a, 9. b, 10. b

Chevon's Story Timeline

1. c, 2. a, 3. b, 4. f, 5. d, 6. e

Ghostwriter's Secret Letter

Dear reader,

I love to read all kinds of books. I use my favorites to give clues. Can you help Ruben, Curtis, Donna, and Chevon find out who I am?

Ghostwriter