

Frankenstein Journal

- For the works we read during the school year, I ask that you complete the journal *as you read* the text – *not* when you finish reading the entire work. The due dates will be every Thursday and will coincide directly with the reading schedule. Make journaling a part of your reading ritual.
- Journal responses must be typed and submitted to [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). For each of the section of the novel that read each week, select the assigned number of quotations (as posted on the schedule board) and respond with both a **critical analysis** and a **personal response**.
- The **Critical Analysis** portion of your responses will be graded for depth of **analysis** (connecting *what the author did to how she did it*) and **focus** (higher horsepower, not spinning rims) with point deductions for **mechanical errors**. Obviously, be sure that your analysis is always genuine and not suckled from elsewhere.
- The **Personal Response** portion of your responses will be graded for **expressive, genuine style** and the believable **establishment of some personal connection** to the text.
- For each chunk of the journal, feel free to select **one** of your responses as your **best** and submit it in **bold-face** type (with the exception of first of the due dates, which is a single entry); I will assess it the most closely. You will eventually be asked to bring some of your best journal entries to class (printed in hardcopy) for an upcoming class discussion.
- I am looking for quality, not quantity. Plot vomit, word-waste, and senseless rhetoric have no place in a journal response. Get elbow-deep in the text with consistency.
- Be sure to include the quotation from the text, the chapter (or section, as applicable) and page number the quotation is pulled from, your critical analysis, and your personal response. Please use the following format as a basic guide (columns optional, vertical stacking okay) for each entry:

Text: “Record the text you’ve selected from *Frankenstein* in this space. Do not use the ellipsis mark before or after the quotation, and I would prefer that you not use it in the middle of the quote either. If the quotation is important enough to comment on, then quote it all. Don’t forget to include the chapter and page number (as it is in your copy) after the quote.” (**Chapter/Section, Page Number**)

Critical Analysis:

In this space you are to analyze Shelley’s use of language and her narrative techniques that you’ve noted. Write in third person as you would in an academic essay. Do not be overly concerned with using proper terminology; that comes in a distant second to good thinking. I encourage you to consider material from notes/lecture as a starting point. Elements to consider include diction, detail, imagery, syntax, etc. Observe, observe, observe; *then* analyze.

Personal Response:

In this space, express your personal response. Convey how the text or events surrounding this quote make you feel. Write in first person here. The response in this column might be similar to what you write in the weekly ‘Poetry Responses’: you may make connections to your life, to other works of literature or non-fiction that you have read, songs, etc. Be genuine while really grappling with the literature. [It is imperative that both of these things happen, otherwise this section will be tedious and come out silly.]