

# The Making of a Monster

(Adapted from *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley)

As a boy, Frankenstein had a happy life and a loving family. One of the first remarkable things he noticed as a youngster was an electrical storm. Lightning struck an oak tree near his home in Switzerland. The next morning when he went out to look, the tree was shattered. This was the first time Frankenstein found out about the laws of electricity.

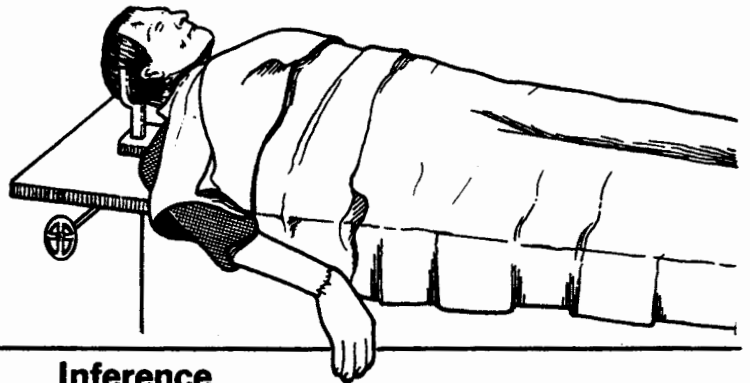
When he went away to school, he was very interested in the sciences. One of his teachers told him to study physical nature, chemistry, and math. Frankenstein did study these and decided he would like to create physical life himself. He forgot his family and friends. He forgot to eat. He grew thin and ill, but at last he was ready to put his studies to work.

On a dreary night in November he began. Frankenstein had laid the form of a human with head, hair, arms, and legs, on a table. He gathered his instruments of life around him. Once more he looked at the lifeless form. Then, using all his

powers, Frankenstein infused life into the form. The rain beat against the windows as Frankenstein waited. In the glimmer of the candlelight, suddenly he saw a yellow eye flicker and open. The creature breathed hard and a shudder ran through its limbs.

Frankenstein had planned a handsome man but was surprised and frightened by what he had created. It was horrible. He wished he had never built the "thing." He ran from the room and hid in his bed. The monster followed. It pulled aside the bed curtains and looked straight at Frankenstein. It muttered some sounds and gave a terrible grin. Frankenstein leaped from bed.

What had he set loose on the world?



## Main Idea

1. The novel *Frankenstein* tells the story of
  - a. an electrical storm.
  - b. a happy family.
  - c. the creation of a monster.

## Significant Details

2. The monster was supposed to be
  - a. handsome.
  - b. horrible.
  - c. quiet.

## Context Clues

3. Frankenstein *infused* life into the form.
  - a. waved a candle over it
  - b. breathed heavily
  - c. gave it the necessary powers to breathe and move

## Inference

4. While studying, Frankenstein learned
  - a. things that other students did not know.
  - b. about his family.
  - c. that electricity was harmless.

## Drawing Conclusions

5. Frankenstein became so interested in his project that he
  - a. did not sleep well every night.
  - b. took an extra week's vacation.
  - c. did not take care of himself.

## Following Through

6. Read *Frankenstein*. If you created a creature, what physical things would you need for just one arm? (i.e., bone, fingernail)

# Island of Mystery

✉ Marvelous trip

Send

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From: AuntJane@Easter.net  
To: Friends and Family  
Sent: Tuesday, November 11  
Subject: Marvelous trip

Dear Friends and Family,

If you've wondered why I haven't answered any of your e-mails for the last few days, it's because I went on an unexpected journey. A friend who teaches at the university called and told me about a last-minute cancellation on a university-sponsored trip to Isla de Pacua. She asked if I could be packed and at the airport in four hours. Well, you know me. I'd never pass up a chance for an adventure.

While we were in the air, I took the opportunity to learn more about this famous island. Isla de Pacua, known as Easter Island, was named by the Dutch explorer, Jacob Roggeveen, who first visited there on Easter Sunday, 1722. Located in the South Pacific Ocean, the island is about 2,000 miles from the coast of Chile. The triangular-shaped island is about 11 miles long and 15 miles wide. An extinct volcano stands on each point of the triangle.

Little rain falls on the island and the soil absorbs water quickly, so there are no fresh water streams. Drinking water comes from crater lakes.

When Roggeveen arrived at Easter Island, about 4,000 people lived there, but by 1879 there were only 111 people left. Many had been captured and sold as slaves. Others died from diseases brought by visitors.

In 1888 the island was annexed by Chile and became a home for people suffering from leprosy. Later the Chilean government made it a public preserve. Today the island is home to about 2,000 people.



## Island of Mystery (cont'd)

I enjoyed the pleasant climate and ocean beaches on Easter Island but was most interested in the megaliths—gigantic, carved statues located throughout the island. Carved of a special kind of volcanic rock called tufa, about 100 simple statues stand on rock platforms and are between 10 and 40 feet tall. The largest statue weighs as much as 50 tons! I can't help but wonder how primitive people could have moved the huge sculptures from the rock quarries to where they now stand.

Although many have tried to solve the mystery of the huge statues, they have found few clues. Scientists have discovered wooden plaques with picture writing and carvings of birds, but they have not solved the mystery.

Some who live on the island say the statues were built by natives who were asking the gods for help. They claim the land was part of a huge continent that was sinking into the ocean. As it sank, the crops were ruined and people starved. The natives built statues of themselves in hopes the gods would be pleased and help them. Most of the faces on the statues gaze into space. Some have their backs to the sea, while others seem to be looking out to sea as if waiting to be rescued. As I looked at the thin faces, I could imagine starving people looking to the sky for help.

Others claim the statues were built during a war between people with short ears and people with long ears. They say that war ended civilization on the island for thousands of years.

I have no idea what the statues mean or why they were built, but seeing them was one of the most wonderful experiences of my life.

love,  
Aunt Jane

1. This narrative is written in  
\_\_\_\_ first person.  
\_\_\_\_ third person.
2. How did Easter Island get its name? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a megalith? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did the population of Easter Island drop dramatically between 1722 and 1879?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Easter Island is part of what country? \_\_\_\_\_
6. On another sheet of paper, write your own explanation of why the megaliths of Easter Island were built.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# It's Perfectly True

Setting: A hen house with a dovecote above and a large tree nearby.

Characters: Narrator, White Hen, Red Hen, Mother Owl, Gray Dove, Rooster

NARRATOR: As the sun set behind the hen house, the White Hen sat on a perch preening herself. One white feather dropped to the ground.

WHITE HEN: There. That feather is gone. The more I preen, the more beautiful I shall become.

NARRATOR: As soon as the White Hen fell asleep, Red Hen whispered to her neighbor.

RED HEN: Did you hear that? I won't name any names, but there's a hen I know who is going to pluck out all her feathers just to make herself look more beautiful for the rooster.

NARRATOR: Mother Owl heard the Red Hen. She spoke to Father Owl in the tree by the hen house.

MOTHER OWL: What is this world coming to? I must go tell my friends. I heard it with my own ears. One of the hens plucked out all her feathers in front of the rooster.

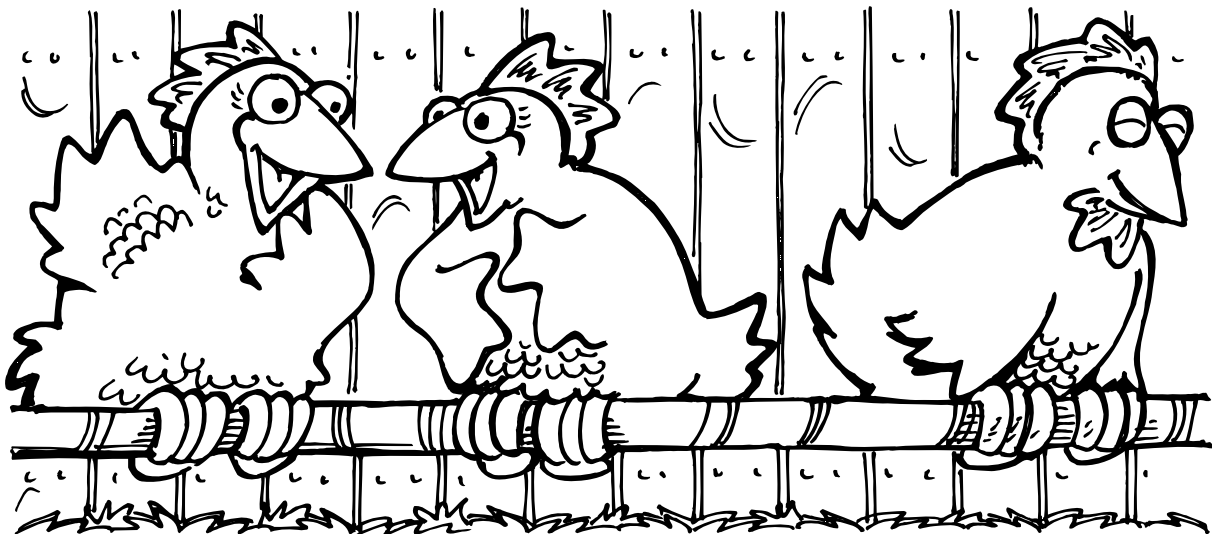
NARRATOR: Mother Owl called to her friends, the doves, who lived in the dovecote above the hen house.

MOTHER OWL: Who-o-oo. Have you heard? There is a hen in the hen house who's plucked out all her feathers just to please the rooster. She's freezing to death, I'm sorry to say, but it's perfectly true.

ALL THE DOVES: Trrrue . . . trrrue . . .

NARRATOR: The Gray Dove called to the rooster and the chickens in the barnyard.

GRAY DOVE: Have you heard? Two hens plucked out their feathers just to please the rooster. They both caught a cold and died. It's perfectly trrrue . . . trrrue . . .



# It's Perfectly True (cont'd)

ROOSTER: Cock-a-doodle-doo! Wake up! Three hens have frozen to death. They plucked out all their feathers because they loved me so much. Pass it on.

NARRATOR: During the night, the story passed from hen house to hen house. By morning it was back where it started.

RED HEN: I just heard the most terrible story. Five hens plucked out all their feathers to prove which was the thinnest. They pecked at one another until all five dropped dead.

WHITE HEN: What a bunch of silly hens! I must call the Hen News Channel and tell them of this tragedy.

NARRATOR: That night the Hen News Channel announced an investigation into the mysterious death of hundreds of hens.

Somehow, one feather became hundreds of dead hens. Once the story was aired on the news, everyone knew it was perfectly true.

1. Number the sentences in order.

- \_\_\_ The story was aired on the Hen News Channel.
- \_\_\_ White Hen preened herself.
- \_\_\_ Gray Dove told Rooster about two hens dying.
- \_\_\_ Mother Owl overheard Red Hen.
- \_\_\_ Gray Dove heard about a hen freezing to death.
- \_\_\_ White Hen heard that five hens pecked each other to death.
- \_\_\_ Rooster said, "Pass it on."



2. Do you think White Hen recognized the story when it got back to the hen house?

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is another way to say, "One little feather became hundreds of dead hens."

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you think the title of this story is appropriate? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_