

Name _____



Many Voices

Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* is told through different perspectives, allowing readers to see the story from multiple points of view. Instead of having just one narrator, Shelley uses three: Robert Walton, Victor Frankenstein, and the creature. Each of them tells their own part of the story, helping the reader understand different sides of what happened.

The novel begins with Robert Walton, an explorer who is sailing through icy waters. He writes letters to his sister about his adventures and how he meets a mysterious, tired man—Victor Frankenstein. Walton is curious about Victor's story, and so he listens as Victor begins to tell it.

Victor Frankenstein becomes the next narrator. He explains how he was a scientist who wanted to create life. He describes his excitement, but also his horror when the creature comes to life. He tells of his guilt and fear, sharing his side of the story as if he were the hero who made a terrible mistake.

But then the story shifts again—this time to the creature's perspective. When the creature speaks, the reader gets to hear his feelings for the first time. He was not born evil. He wanted to be loved, but because of his appearance, people feared him. The creature shares how he learned to speak, read, and feel emotions, only to be rejected by everyone, including his creator, Victor.

By using different narrators, Mary Shelley helps the reader see that every story has more than one side. If the story had only been told by Victor, we might think of the creature as a monster. But by hearing from the creature himself, we understand his loneliness and pain. Likewise, Walton's letters show that Victor was not just a scientist, but a man filled with regret. Each perspective helps shape the reader's understanding of the story, making *Frankenstein* a powerful and thought-provoking book.