

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Burning Bright

Throughout *Frankenstein*, fire and light are powerful symbols that represent both knowledge and danger. Just like real fire, these ideas can help or harm depending on how they are used.

In the novel, Victor Frankenstein is drawn to the idea of creating life, just as people are drawn to light. He believes that science can give him unlimited

knowledge, but he does not think about the consequences. His desire to control life is like playing with fire—at first, it is exciting, but soon, it becomes dangerous. When Victor finally brings his creature to life, he is horrified by what he has done. His "light of discovery" quickly turns into a nightmare.

For the creature, fire is both helpful and painful. Early in his life, he discovers fire in the woods. At first, he is amazed by its warmth and beauty. He feels comforted by its light. But when he touches it, he burns his hand and learns that fire can also cause pain. This moment represents how knowledge can be both good and bad. Just as the creature learns the power of fire, he also learns that people fear and hate him. His desire for love and belonging is crushed by the pain of rejection.

Fire and light continue to appear throughout the story. Victor chases the creature into the Arctic, where there is no warmth—only cold and darkness. Without light, Victor has no hope, showing that he has lost his way. Meanwhile, the creature, who once loved light, disappears into the frozen unknown, realizing that there is no place for him in the world.

Mary Shelley uses fire and light to show that knowledge, like fire, must be handled with care. If used wisely, it can lead to discovery and growth. But if used recklessly, it can bring destruction and regret.