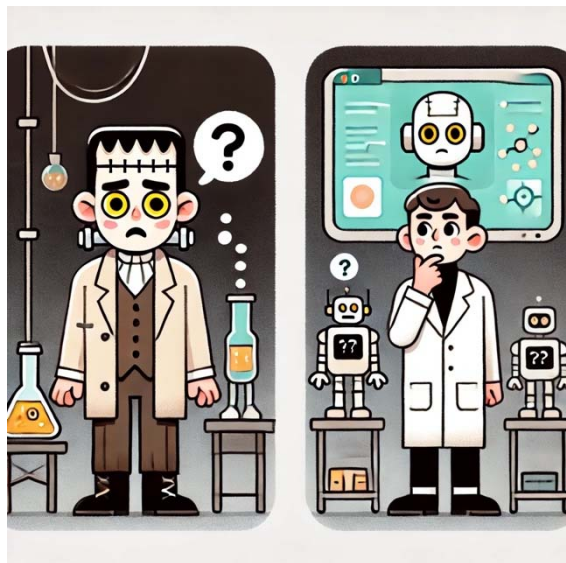


Name _____



Science's Shadow

When Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein* in 1818, science was making big discoveries, and people were both excited and afraid of what the future might hold. Today, we have similar fears about scientific advancements like cloning and artificial intelligence. Like Victor Frankenstein's experiment, modern science raises important questions about responsibility

and the dangers of creating things we may not fully understand.

In *Frankenstein*, Victor is obsessed with discovering the secret of life. He works in secret, never thinking about what will happen after he succeeds. When his creature comes to life, Victor is terrified and runs away. He never teaches or guides the creature, leaving it to figure out the world on its own. Without love or support, the creature becomes angry and dangerous. This reflects a common fear—what happens if we create something we cannot control?

Today, scientists are exploring cloning, artificial intelligence, and robotics. These discoveries could be helpful, just like Victor hoped his creation would be. However, people worry about the consequences. If we clone humans, will they be treated fairly? If artificial intelligence becomes too powerful, could it turn against us? These are the same fears Shelley explored in *Frankenstein*—that science, if used without responsibility, can create more problems than solutions.

The lesson from *Frankenstein* is not that science is bad, but that scientists must think about the consequences of their work. Victor ignored his responsibility and paid the price. Today, we must ask the same questions: How can we use science wisely? How can we make sure we don't create something harmful? Shelley's novel reminds us that with great knowledge comes great responsibility.