



Frankenstein

Michael Burgan , Ed Parker (Illustrator) , Kathryn Yingling (Illustrator) , Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

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'I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life and stir with an uneasy, half-vital motion.' A summer evening's ghost stories, lonely insomnia in a moonlit Alpine's room, and a runaway imagination -- fired by philosophical discussions with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley about science, galvanism, and the origins of life -- conspired to produce for Mary Shelley this haunting night specter. By morning, it had become the germ of her Romantic masterpiece, "Frankenstein." Written in 1816 when she was only 19, Mary Shelley's novel of 'The Modern Prometheus' chillingly dramatized the dangerous potential of life begotten upon a laboratory table. A frightening creation myth for our own time, "Frankenstein" remains one of the greatest horror stories ever written and is an undisputed classic of its kind.

Frankenstein Details

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Author : Michael Burgan , Ed Parker (Illustrator) , Kathryn Yingling (Illustrator) , Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

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From Reader Review Frankenstein for online ebook

Tamami says

The retelling of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein by Michael Burgan, which attempts to create an accurate and compelling version of the novel, merely recalls the vaguest of plot points and relies upon blandly illustrated cartoons, and fails to demonstrate any deeper knowledge of the novel. Frankenstein, which is a powerful and incredibly well-crafted novel, loses much of its symbolism and deeper meanings, making the graphic novel an ultimately useless tool in understanding the meanings behind Shelley's novel.

The illustrations in the graphic novel initially seem to evoke emotion in the reader however with the passing of time the illustrations no longer have that effect. The color scheme of the pictures are all of a repetitive unimaginative palette. The illustrations also fail to reflect the time period of Shelley's Frankenstein. The clothing seem to reflect 20th century style instead of the 19th century setting the novel is supposed to be placed. The graphics are dark, yet not creepy enough to illustrate the story of Frankenstein.

The text used in the novel is just as bland as the illustrations. It is extremely basic, telling just the skeleton plot summary without including any depth or emotion. The rich figurative language of Shelley is lost in this uninspired graphic novel. Far too many important details are left unmentioned, leaving us with an unsatisfactory, flavorless impression when reaching the end. Both the illustrations and text are fairly dull, and the powerful potential Shelley's story holds fails to follow through.

The type of audience this novel would be suitable for would be young middle school students as opposed to more advanced readers of literature. Students new to the English language who wish to have a taste of classic literature may also find this novel helpful. The basicness of Burgan's novel can work as a helpful introduction to the story before going in depth with Shelley's novel. Also, as people frequently have a skewed understanding of the story of Frankenstein, a simple graphic novel such as this can help inform people of the basic plot points of the true story.

Brandee Shafer says

We picked up a "mystery book" at the library, knowing only that it was a juvenile classic. Upon removing the Valentine's wrapping, we discovered we had selected this abridged version of Frankenstein. I thought it a strange choice for Valentine's Day and didn't expect that my little girls and I would enjoy it, but I decided to give it a chance, anyway.

We liked it! My 6yo daughter REALLY liked it: corpses, body parts, monsters, worms, and all! She said it was "spooky but cool." I didn't know the story of Frankenstein at all (like, I thought Frankenstein was the name of the monster), so it was all new to me.

Selah Pike says

A surprisingly good kid adaptation of Frankenstein. When we finished, my daughter, age 9, looked at me and said, "Why did you make me read that? It was good, but it was scary and SAD." Then she burst into tears. I think Mary Shelley would've been pleased.

Roseca says

i think this was one of the worst books i read because i dont see how a dead person can become back alive again like when the lightning hits the dead guy. i dont even see how its possible for him just come alive

Jessica says

Another nostalgic read. I really think Wishbone can and did help kids learn. This book had Wishbone giving the definition of certain words and reminding the reader of things that happened earlier in the book when they came up again later, which would help children who have focus issues keep on track. It also explained some historical things, the basics of romanticism and the use of weather as foreshadowing. I might not have enjoyed this as much as I would have as a child, but I really respect how the writer handled things.

Jen says

It was ok. I bought a few of these graphic novel classics at the thrift store for my little free library. I think they are a good way to reach kids that wouldn't normally pick up a classic.

La Revistería Comics says

Frankenstein sufre dolor de riñones en esta genérica adaptación del clásico de Mary Shelley.

katyjanereads says

1. I listened to a Frankenstein audiobook a couple of years ago and I loved it.
2. I think I love Frankenstein so much because of the strong themes: Don't try to play God, be kind to everyone even if they don't look like you, and don't seek revenge. It's like, the monster literally just wanted someone to talk to. The story is heartbreaking. How many "monsters" are in our world that would be just fine if someone had loved them when they were growing up?
3. I loved the sections in the back: Frankenstein Facts, Discussion Questions, and Writing Prompts.
The writing prompts in the back:
 - Create your own monster
 - Victor Frankenstein chased the monster almost as far as the North Pole. What do you think would have happened if he had caught the creature? Write down your ideas.
 - At the end of the story, Frankenstein's monster says that he will destroy himself. Do you believe him? If he doesn't destroy himself, what do you think he would do instead? Write a new ending to the story.
4. I think Frankenstein would have left everyone alone had he gotten his wife.
5. It drives me crazy when people call the monster Frankenstein.
6. I liked the tidbit of Mary Shelley writing this story because of a ghost story contest she was having with other authors.

Lesli says

Probably a middle grade graphic novel. An interesting adaptation of the novel. There is suggested violence, but nothing "on page."

Despond says

Frankenstein (Wishbone Classics) by Michael Burgan (1999)

Enter Name says

I think this is a great novel for all people who love graphic novels. I would definitely recommend this to everyone. I liked how in the book when Frankenstein got resurrected he made a surprise by running away and you have to wonder what happens next. I like how later in the book when we see Frankenstein again, he tells us the backstory. I honestly can't come up with much bad to say about this book except for that it was too short. I hope everyone who likes graphic novels would read this book.

Frank says

Frankenstein is in the category of horror. Frankenstein is about a very curious scientist that wants to invent a human that would be even smarter than actual human kind. The scientist starts to dig up different parts from different bodies in a local graveyard. When the creation was finished the scientist was not happy with what he made. He literally made a huge giant monster with an ugly face. The monster went on a big rage of killings and mass destruction. After a while the scientist figured out that the monster he created was just lonely and wanted a monster companion. Over all this is a fantastic thriller, i would recomend this story to thriller fans.

Jax Holt says

OMG!

This is my review on the graphic novel version of Frankenstein. The original book was written by Mary Shelley and the graphic novel is written by Michael Burgan.

The graphic novel follows the story of Victor Frankenstein, who makes a dead person come back to life! At first he is pleased about what he had done but that soon changes! His creation is in fact a monster! After killings in Victor's family, he needs to stop the monster before his loneliness is taken out as violence...

Hummmm.... I don't know what to say about the characters! The main character, Victor Frankenstein was really good! I don't know how I feel about characters in short graphic novels but in this he proved me wrong,

I actually liked the character. Next we have, the monster who was an okay antagonist. I didn't really like or hate him to be honest with you but I will say he is a very interesting character. Other characters, Elizabeth (Victor's wife), Mr Frankenstein (Victor's Dad) and Robert Walton. These three characters were not great characters! These characters were supporting characters but they were hardly developed and I didn't really care about them.

Victor's death was done well in a way! I didn't expect him to die I thought he was going to live. The monster kind of died in away but we didn't see the death. Finally Elizabeth's death which was done poorly! I hated her death and like I said I don't care about her!

I have to say after my last encounter with Michael Burgan I wasn't keen at getting into grips with one of his works AGAIN! But after reading Frankenstein I have a change of heart regarding this author! I loved this a lot more than Dracula!

Overall I gave the book 4 stars! The reason for this is because some of the characters lacked development and the writing style for me was too easy! I have got to say though, it was fast pacing all the way through and I was done with it in one sitting! :)

Libby says

This was a very good book and I enjoyed learning about Frankenstein and I liked learning more about the author Mary Shelley. I liked that the monster wanted to find love and he wanted his creator Victor to make him a female monster. Then, the monster told his master Victor that he wouldn't bother anyone again.

Katie Solt says

It was good book. Someday want read the Real Frankenstein book. I think Frankenstein is one of my favorite monsters
