▪ **FRANKENSTEIN** MIND CHART

Narrators
1) Walton
2) Dr Frankenstein   *1st person narrative*
3) The monster
Non-omniscient narrators

Setting
North Pole
Bavaria
Geneva

Time
Present narrating past events then contemporary

Structure
- Narrative divided into chapters
- Epistolary form
- Long written or oral confession
- Preference for indirect over direct speech

Language
Mixture of direct and indirect speech

Author
Mary Shelley (1797-1851), daughter of the philosopher and novelist, William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, a novelist essayist and advocate of equality between the sexes.

Sources
- German ghost stories
- Scientific theories and experiments of the day
- Works on chemistry
- Evolutionary principles and electricity
- Rosseau's ideas on education (the monster's a man in a state of nature)
- Romantic works
- Myth of Prometheus (example of a Faustian overreacher = go beyond human events)

Gothic Novel
The Gothic element is to be found in the description of a dreadful setting
- of the ugliness of the monster
- of the reaction of his creator
- atmosphere of suspense and danger

Reader judgement
- A horror story but also a story about feelings and prejudices
- Forerunner of science fiction

PLOT
Captain Walton meets dr Frankenstein at the North Pole, Frankenstein tells him about his scientific research into the reanimation of dead tissue. He creates a 'monster'. The monster becomes a murderer and at the end he destroys his creator.

Themes

Concrete:
Creation of tissue
Scientific experiments

Abstract:
Injustice
Discrimination
Horror
Fear
Ambition
Isolation
Alienation
Love

CHARACTERS

MAIN

MINOR
Captain R. Walton
Mrs Margaret Saville
Elizabeth

THE MONSTER
- deformed
- sensitive
- self-aware

VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN
- feels omnipotent (start)
- sensitive
- realizes his human limits (end)

RELATIONSHIP

father-son   dependence
God-man   complementary personality

RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT
- Evolutionary experiments: cloning
- Genetically Modified Food (GMF), Frankenfood