

FRANKENSTEIN ACTIVITY - THE COURT CASE

Task 1.1 So you will be putting Victor & the creature on trial to decide who is to blame for the terrible deaths – & to determine who the real monster is. Using the play for evidence gathering, prepare your part by making notes on your character & be ready to give a statement about what has happened to you & your role in the tragedy.

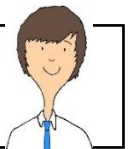
In this activity you will need to show that:

1. You have thought about the plot.
2. You have used the play to get ideas about what to say & what your character thinks.
3. You can listen to others & present your case clearly to other.

If in a group each student can play a different character. While the court case is on you will have to listen carefully to what is happening & answer questions as your character would.

If working independently then you can work through each key character to argue & persuade for & against who is guilty through the text/quotes from the play. When doing this you will find that you contradict your argument from character to character.

“To back up your view, use the ‘Who’s the Monster Starter Worksheet &’ Court Case Guide Sheet’ to help gather key quotes”.



Characters

Victor	The Creature
The Judge(s)	Victor’s Lawyer
The Creature’s Lawyer	Elizabeth Lavenza’s Ghost
Alphonse Frankenstein’s Ghost (Victor’s father)	William’s Ghost (Victor’s brother)
Robert Walton	Henry Clerval (Victor’s friend)
Felix (met the creature in the forest)	Agatha (met the creature in the forest)
De Lacey (Blind man)	The Jury member(s)
Assistant Judge	Court Official

Prior to the case & evidence being shared in court who would you say is guilty & why?

After listening/compiling all the evidence from key characters who would YOU say is guilty & why?

Task 1.2. Gather all your evidence for your guilty verdict & complete an essay that could be used as a final speech as the prosecution towards the Judge and Jury.

The Judge(s)

The Judge can be just one person or can work in pairs & have an Assistant Judge. (Separate sheet)

You are in charge of the courtroom & what happens in the trial. You need to make sure that the trial runs smoothly & that Victor & the Creature (the defendants) get a fair hearing. You must listen carefully to everyone.

1. You should start the trial by explaining what has happened & why we are all here.
2. You should call up each witness & the lawyers.
3. You must try to ensure that everyone listens to each other & that you keep order in the court.
4. You must listen carefully & you can ask question if you want.
5. Before the trail begins, make some notes on the case & any questions you feel must be addressed.
6. Sum up the evidence at the end of the trial, before the jury consider their verdict.
7. After the jury deliver the verdict, you will need to pass sentence.

Try to show good listening skills & get everyone involved. This will help you to get a good grade in Task 1.2

Notes:

The Creature

You were made by Victor. In a way he is your father.

1. Victor ran off when he first saw you come to life. You are called a 'monster' & have no name in the story.
2. You were not treated very well by most people in your life.
3. Victor did not teach you right or wrong or care for you.
4. You tracked down Victor & wanted him to make you a bride so that you would not be lonely.
5. You are powerful & very strong.
6. You attacked & killed people.
7. You wanted revenge on Victor for what he had done.

Is it all your fault? How do you feel? Do you think you are guilty? Try to answer all the questions you are asked & try to make everyone understand your side of the story. Who do you blame for the deaths?

Notes:

Agatha

You & your brother have come to court but you are both every nervous

1. You are blind & yet you met the creature when you were on your own.
2. You were the only person who was ever kind to the creature. Why were you kind?
3. The creature did steal from you but did not hurt you.
4. You tried to understand him. Can you understand why he became so evil?
5. How did your brother react when he saw the creature in your home?
6. What was your brother's reaction after he shot the creature?
7. What did your brother tell you about the creature?

Do you feel sorry for the creature? Or do you now blame the creature for what it did? Try to be really clear about who you blame & why.

Notes:

Victor

You created the creature & began to create a bride for him as well.

1. You were appalled by what you had made & ran off, even though the monster was like a child. You didn't teach him or care for him.
2. You didn't tell anyone about what you had created.
3. People you loved died because of what the monster did.
4. You are a talented scientist & have dedicated your life to learning about science.
5. You did something incredible that no one else had ever done. Should you be punished for learning amazing new things?
6. You have given up a lot in your life to help others.
7. You have had to cope with keeping secret what you did.

Is it all your fault? If you could go back in time, would you still create the monster?

Make sure you listen to the statements from others in the case. Try to answer all the questions & make everyone understand your side of the story.

Notes:

William Frankenstein – Victor's little brother - Ghost

You're a ghost but you've come back to take part in the trial, you don't need to wear a white sheet or go whooo!

1. You die in the story but who do you blame?
2. You died at a young age. How do you feel about missing out on life?
3. You loved your oldest brother Frankenstein but he was away a lot.
4. Although the creature killed you, do you think anyone else is at all responsible for your death?
5. When you first saw the creature what did you think?
6. Do you think the creature is evil?

Is it Victor's fault or do you blame the creature?

Try to answer all the questions & make everyone feel sorry for you.

Notes:

Robert Walton: Explorer, Captain of the ship who hears Victor's story

You are the one person who has heard the whole story from Victor's point of view. You can hardly believe what Victor told you.

1. You are a brave explorer & you have taken risks just like Victor did with his experiments. However, do you think he went too far with what he did?
2. When you first saw Victor what did you think?
3. Have you learnt anything by talking to Victor?
4. Do you feel sorry for Victor? Why or why not?
5. What do you think of all the deaths?
6. When you first saw the creature what did you think?
7. Has your opinion of Victor change since you first met?

You might support Victor more as you heard his side of the story – but this will be your choice.

Try to answer all the questions & explain your thoughts fully.

Notes:

Court Official

You have an important part to play by making sure that everyone swears to tell the truth in court. You have to help the judges make sure that the case runs smoothly.

1. Your job is to call up the witnesses to the stand.
2. Introduce witnesses by saying their characters name & who they are in the story.
3. You must ask them 'Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth & nothing but the truth?'
4. You must listen carefully to what is being said & make sure that you do what the Judge asks you to do.

Listen carefully to all of the witnesses & other people in the court & pay close attention to what is going on.

Notes:

Baron Alphonse Frankenstein – Victor’s father – Ghost

You’re a ghost but you’ve come back to take part in the trial, you don’t need to wear a white sheet or go whooo!

1. You were proud of your son & his achievements.
2. You know Victor was trying to be a great scientist
3. Before you got ill, Elizabeth tried to get Victor to visit you but he refused. How did you feel about this?
4. Victor brought to life the creature that killed William & Elizabeth. You loved them both so much.
5. What do you think of the creature he made?
6. Who is to blame for their deaths, the creature, or Victor, his creator?
7. What do you wish happened?

To get a good grade try to be really clear about who you blame & why?

Notes:

Elizabeth Lavenza - Ghost

You're a ghost but you've come back to take part in the trial, you don't need to wear a white sheet or go whooo!

1. Who do you blame for your death?
2. You were loyal to the Frankenstein family, helping Baron Frankenstein & looking after William who sadly died.
3. You loved Frankenstein & wanted to help him but he did not tell you the truth about things. How do you feel about this?
4. You were killed by the monster but who do you blame the most?
5. Have your feelings towards any characters changed since your death?

Listen carefully to the other witnesses. Try to answer all the questions you are asked & explain your point of view.

Make sure people understand who you feel is most responsible for your death & William's.

Notes:

Henry Clerval – Victor’s friend

You’re a ghost but you’ve come back to take part in the trial, you don’t need to wear a white sheet or go whooo!

1. Can you describe Victor as he was when you first met?
2. You were good friends with Frankenstein & wanted to help him but he did not tell you the whole truth about his experiments. How do you feel when you found out he had been hiding things from you?
3. What do you think about Victor’s experiments?
4. Do you think Victor was right to try to create life?
5. You were killed by the monster but who do you blame the most?
6. Have any of your feelings about any characters or events changed since your death?
7. Is Frankenstein a scientist or evil?
8. Do you think you might be jealous of Frankenstein & what he achieved?

Try to be really clear about who you blame for the deaths in the play & why.

Notes:

Felix

You are young & want to protect your only sister from harm.

1. You are nervous in court.
2. You met the monster & you shot at him because you thought that he was attacking Agatha.
3. You tried to explain to Agatha what the creature was like but she wouldn't believe you.
4. What did you think when you first saw the creature? How did he make you feel?
5. What had you heard about the creature from the villagers?
6. Did Agatha convince you that the creature meant no harm?
7. Have your feelings about the monster changed at all over time?

Try to be really clear about your thoughts & explain how you feel about the creature.

Notes:

Assistant Judge

Working with the Head Judge, you are jointly in charge of the court room & what happens in the trial. You need to work together to make sure that the trial runs smoothly & that Victor & the creature (the defendants) get a fair hearing. You must listen very carefully to everyone.

1. You can ask questions if you want.
2. If a lawyer has asked to speak, you can invite them to stand & ask their question.
3. Make sure that nobody is rude or abusive in the court room.
4. You may need to remind witnesses & lawyers of the rules of conduct in court.
5. Before the trial begins make some notes on the case & any questions you feel must be addressed.

Try to show good listening skills & get everyone involved.

Notes:

Lawyer for Victor

You have a very challenging part & must argue & defend Victor.

1. Before the trial you should work closely with Victor to plan how you will convince everyone that Victor is not guilty.
2. Read Victor's character card to help you.
3. You should argue that the creature is to blame & is responsible for his behaviour.
4. You could hypothesise that Victor is a talented scientist & could not have known what the monster would do.
5. You should plan questions to ask the creature & witnesses. Think carefully about what you ask; you want their answers to help Victor.
6. You should make a speech at the end summing up why Victor is not guilty.

Listen to the witnesses in the case & ask powerful questions. Try to make the jury sympathise with Victor. Blame the creature for everything that happened.

Notes:

Lawyer for the Creature.

You have a very challenging part & must argue for & defend the creature.

1. You should work closely with the person playing the part of the creature to plan how you will convince the jury that the creature is not guilty.
2. Read the creature's character card to help you.
3. You should argue that Victor, as the creator, is to blame & is responsible for what happened & all the tragic deaths.
4. Explain that the creature has no role model to guide him.
5. To play your part well you should look over the story & plan questions to ask Victor & the witnesses.
6. You want their answers to help the creature be found not guilty so think carefully about what you ask.
7. You will need to make a speech at the end summing up why the creature is not guilty.

Listen to the witnesses in the case & ask powerful questions. Try to make the jury sympathise with the creature.

Blame Victor for everything that happened.

Notes:

Jury Members

You will listen to evidence presented by the witnesses & the arguments of their lawyers. You are important because you make the final decision in the case after hearing all the witnesses.

1. You must listen very carefully to what everyone is saying.
2. You can ask questions but should put up your hand & wait until the Judge asks you what you want to say.
3. Together with the other jury members, you will have to vote on whether Victor or the Creature is most responsible.
4. You must vote carefully & have a reason for your decision.
5. To prepare for the trial, write at least three questions for the key witnesses in the case. Try to ask open questions so that the witness cannot answer with a yes or no.
6. You will get a good mark if you show that you have been involved with the case & listening to others.

Make sure you listen carefully & consider all sides of the story.

Notes: