It’s Alive!
Frankenstein at 200
Online Teacher Curriculum

The Morgan Library & Museum
SECTION 3
Writing and Editing Frankenstein
Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol. 20v
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851),
Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol. 21r
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851),
Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol.58v
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851),
Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol.59r
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851),
Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol.61v
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851), *Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817*, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol.62r
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851),
*Frankenstein: It was on a dreary night in November 1816-1817*, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 56, fol.61v
PARADISE LOST

BOOK I.

O
f Man's first disobedience and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taffe
Brought death into the world and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us and regain the blissful seat,
Sing heavenly Muse, that on the secret top
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didn't inspire
That shepherd, who first taught the chosen seed,
In the beginning how the heav'n's and earth
Rose out of Chaos; or if Sion hill
Delight thee more, and Siloa's brook that flow'd
Fall by the oracle of God; I thence
Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song,
That with no middle flight intends to soar

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Manuscript inscription of Percy Bysshe Shelley in a copy of Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.
It was eight o’clock when we landed; we walked for a short time on the shore, enjoying the transitory light, and then retired to the inn, and contemplated the lovely scene of waters, woods, and mountains, obscured in darkness, yet still displaying their black outlines.

The wind, which had fallen in the south, now rose with great violence in the west. The moon had reached her summit in the heavens, and was beginning to descend; the clouds swept across it swifter than the flight of the vulture, and dimmed her rays, while...
the lake reflected the scene of the busy heavens, rendered still busier by the restless waves that were beginning to rise. Suddenly a heavy storm of rain descended.

The moment was too dark for so much action. I found myself unable to follow my resolution, and remained standing by the door, listening to the thunder and feeling the nations of the earth convulsed under me.

I had been calm during the day; but so soon as night obscured the shapes of objects, a thousand fears arose in my mind. I was anxious and watchful, while my right hand grasped a pistol which was hidden in my bosom; every sound terrified me; but I resolved that I would sell my life dearly, and not relax the impending conflict until my own life, or that of my adversary, were extinguished.

Elizabeth observed my agitation for some time in timid and fearful silence; at length she said, “What is it that agitates you, my dear Victor? What is it you fear?”

“Oh! peace, peace, my love,” I exclaimed, and firmly pressed on, and I was half inclined to hurry the flight of the feet; but my whole heart would not obey the voice of the friend whose life I loved; I hastily walked on, and sparing no arm opposed her.
Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1797 - 1851), *Frankenstein: Creature begins his history, account of his education*, 1816-1817, Pen on paper, The Bodleian Libraries, The University of Oxford, MS Abinger c. 57, fols. 1v, 2r