

# *Frankenstein Dialectical Journal*

## *– 70 points –*

This will more than likely be assigned the first week of class. Why not get a head start on this over the summer! **Make your own copy before you begin.**

### **DIALECTICAL JOURNAL INSTRUCTIONS**

The term “Dialectic” means “the art or practice of arriving at the truth by using conversation involving question and answer.” Think of your dialectical journal as a series of conversations with the texts we read during this course. The process is meant to help you develop a better understanding of the texts we read.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Create a dialectical journal for Frankenstein. Journal entries may be typed entries (12 point, Times New Roman) or VERY neatly handwritten in blue or black ink. Each entry must have a passage from the novel with page number(s) and a response to each passage. The sections and number of entries are as follows:

- Letters 1-4 (Walton’s POV) – **1 entry**
- Chapter 1-10 (Victor’s POV) – **2 entries**
- Chapter 11-16 (Creature’s POV) – **2 entries**
- Chapter 17-24 (Victor / Walton’s POV) – **2 entries**

### **PROCEDURE:**

**For each dialectical journal per section (7 total), please consider the following:**

- As you read, choose passages that stand out to you and record them in the left-hand column of a T-chart (*ALWAYS include page numbers*).
- Look for quotes that seem significant, powerful, and/or thought provoking.
  - Effective &/or creative use of stylistic or literary devices
  - Structural shifts or turns in the plot
  - A passage that makes you realize something you hadn’t seen before
  - Examples of patterns: recurring images, symbols or motifs.
  - Passages that illustrate a particular character
  - Identify, discuss and track the development of a particular theme
- In the right column, write your response to the text (ideas/insights, questions, reflections, and comments on each passage)

### **EXAMPLE DIALECTICAL JOURNAL**

<b>Passage from the text and correct MLA citation</b>	<b>Student’s comments and/or questions</b>
<p>“My affection for my guest increases every day. He excites at once my admiration and my pity to an astonishing degree. How can I see so noble a creature destroyed by misery without feeling the most poignant grief? He is so gentle, yet so wise; his mind is so cultivated, and when he speaks, although his words are culled with the choicest art, yet they</p>	<p>It is obvious that Robert Walton yearns to find someone to talk to who will understand him and be a true friend. But, why does he call Victor Frankenstein a “creature”? Also, “choice art” makes me think about what art is available regarding Frankenstein the monster and the novel. I wonder how many artists have drawn or used Frankenstein as inspiration for their work, especially after the movie was made in 1931. I will investigate Frankenstein and art. And, I will also watch the movie or</p>

flow with rapidity and unparalleled eloquence"(19).

movies. I wonder how the movie compares to the novel; I saw the movie – it is drastically different.

## Literary Responses – 30 points

### DUE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH - JOURNAL RESPONSES DIRECTIONS

**Directions:** Choose **TWO** of the three prompts below and write an extended paragraph (10-15 sentences) response. Your paragraphs should be formatted correctly and include textual evidence to support your claim:

- Include a topic sentence stating your claim
- Provide at least two textual references (examples from the text) to support your claim
- Use the SSS method of incorporating textual evidence
  - S – speaker (who is saying the quote?)
  - S – situation (what is the context of the quote in the novel?)
  - S – significance (how does the quote support your claim?)
- Cite your quotes correctly using MLA format
- These may be written (neatly in blue or black ink) or typed following MLA format.

#### 1. Role of Nature

Throughout the novel *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley uses images of nature to create a mood. In your paragraph, discuss how and why Shelley uses this nature imagery? What is the role of nature in the story? Provide at least two examples of textual evidence to support your claim.

#### 2. Epistolary/Frame Structure

*Frankenstein* is written in both an epistolary and a frame structure. In your paragraph, discuss how and why Shelley chose to set up the novel using these structures. What is the effect of this structure on the story? Provide at least two examples of textual evidence to support your claim.

#### 3. Romantic/Gothic Literature

*Frankenstein* is considered to be a novel from both the Romantic and the Gothic literary movements. Based on your reading and your research into this movement, how is *Frankenstein* a Romantic/Gothic novel? What aspects of these movements does the novel address? Provide at least two examples of textual evidence to support your claim.