***VCE English Unit 1***

***Creative Response***

***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**

**Introduction to the task**

* In Unit 1, you are required to respond to *Frankenstein* in a creative form.
* You must also create a **Written Explanation** in which you demonstrate the connection between your creative response and the original text.

**Conditions of the task**

* You will have the opportunity to discuss your ideas and draft work in class (2 lessons), but teachers will not provide written feedback on this draft.
* The Assessment Task will be written in 75 minutes in class.
* You will be permitted to bring in your written explanation and one side of an A4 page of dot-point hand-written planning notes
* Word limit: 700-800 words

**Read Chapter 2.3 of your textbook ‘Reading and Creating’ (pp. 77 – 86)**

**These pages will be discussed in class.**

**Introductory Homework**

* Research Mary Shelley’s life.
* Who were her major influences?
* Read the Author’s introduction to the text (pp. 5-10)
* How did she come to write *Frankenstein*?
* Who was Prometheus and how is his story related to *Frankenstein*?

**Creative response idea**

1. Take on the persona of Mary Shelley and explain how you came to write *Frankenstein*. How and why did your ideas about your themes and characters develop from your early draft?

**VOLUME 1**

**Key Passage 1: Frankenstein is rescued by Captain Walton (pp.25-32)**

Key idea: Wild dreams are dangerous

* Write Frankenstein’s thoughts as to why he decides to tell his story to captain Walton.

**Key passage 2: Frankenstein rejects his creation (pp.49-50; 53-59)**

Key ideas: A father’s responsibility for his creation; selfishness as a result of being indulged

* Write a parallel story about someone who is proud, arrogant and creates something for which he / she then takes no responsibility.
* Write about someone whose naivety leads to disaster
* Write as the monster, waking to see his father’s reaction and then being abandoned.
* Write a comparison between the way Victor’s father has treated him and the way Victor treats his own ‘son’.
* Write Clerval’s thoughts on what has happened to his friend.

**Key passage 3: Justine’s conviction and execution (pp. 80-90)**

Key idea: How do appearances affect the way people judge one another?

* Write Justine’s thoughts in relation to these events.
* Write an excerpt from the transcript of the judge’s findings in Justine’s trial. Why does he convict her?
* Write a contemporary news report about the crime, and then the arrest, trial and execution of Justine.
* Create a contemporary story about how appearance influences public opinion (e.g. female body image, Muslims, indigenous people, disabled people)
* Create a story about an innocent person being convicted on circumstantial evidence or by prejudice and public opinion
* Escaping to nature and the peace that it brings after tragedy (pp. 97-8)

**VOLUME 2**

**Key passage 1: The monster learns about wealth, class and the duality of man (pp. 122-124); Felix and the Turk (125-129)**

Key ideas: Being an outcast; betrayal; prejudice

* Write an account of being an outsider; someone who is excluded and who cannot hope to share the advantages of his new society ( e.g. a refugee, someone who is disadvantaged in some way)
* Innocence vs experience – a story of disillusionment
* Loneliness
* Write Felix’s account of his betrayal by Safie’s father

**Key passage 2: The revelation (pp. 134-137)**

Key ideas: Disappointment, anger and revenge

* Write Felix’s thoughts when he returns to the cottage and sees the monster at his father’s feet.
* Respond to this quotation: ‘We fear what we do not understand’.
* Create a story where good conquers evil
* How do people become violent? Write a story of the creation of a modern day ‘monster’.

**VOLUME 3**

**Key Passage1: Engagement to Elizabeth (155-159)**

* How might Elizabeth respond to the knowledge of what Victor had done and was planning to do? Write her letter to him.

**Key passage 2: London**

Key ideas: guilt and procrastination (p.167)

* Write Clerval’s thoughts about the changes in his friend.
* Write a story of procrastination and its dire consequences

**Key passage 3: the destruction of the monster’s bride (170-**

Key ideas: creation of a monster; the inventor’s responsibility for his invention

* Which invention / creation would you uninvent?
* How have some inventions travelled far beyond what their inventors imagined for them?
* Write a story of the creation becoming the master.
* Write the monster’s plans for revenge against his faithless creator.
* Write the monsters thoughts as he places Clerval’s body on the Irish beach.

**Key Passage 4: Declaration of Vengeance**

Key ideas: lack of empathy; egoism

* Why does the fiend laugh when Victor says, ‘…let him feel the despair that now torments me.’ What are his thoughts at this point?
* Will Walton return to England? Write his concluding thoughts about this experience.

**Other Ideas for creative writing**

1. Write a psychologist’s report, comparing the Walton he sees in the Captain’s letters to Margaret at the beginning of the narrative and comparing him to the character he meets after the voyage. How would he account for the changes?
2. Write a letter to all scientists of his time from Frankenstein, documenting his warnings about meddling with nature.
3. Does Frankenstein marry Elizabeth from love, fear or guilt? Write Elizabeth’s account of her understanding of his motivation.
4. Write a new scene in which the Monster finds acceptance rather than rejection.
5. Imagine Frankenstein does create a bride for the monster. Write a script of the first conversation between the new bride and groom.

**Others?**