• Born Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin on August 30, 1797

• Mother died ten days after childbirth

• Step-mother did not support Mary’s intellectual curiosity

• Was taught to read and write at home

• Was allowed to sit quietly in a corner and listen to her father’s conversations with Wordsworth and Coleridge
• Dramatic story with Percy Shelley starting in 1814...

• Shelley’s probable affair with her step-sister

• Premature birth to a daughter in 1815; died two weeks later

• Emotional struggle
Life continued...

- Loss of two children of illness during stay in Italy in 1818
- Birth of another son in 1819; miscarriage in 1822
- Death of Percy Shelley in 1822
- Deep depression
- Returned to her father in 1823
- Died in 1851 from a mysterious paralysis...
• Conceived in summer 1816 in Switzerland

• Husband Percy edited it; took it to London

• Published in March 1818 anonymously

• Revised novel in 1823 after Percy’s death

• Published in 1831 in “Colburn and Bentley’s Standard Novel Series”, this time with her name
“The deviant author was a Frankenstein and the novel a monster.”

- Range of reactions and sensations when first published

“Tissue of horrible and disgusting absurdity...embodied the strong and striking language of the insane.” – Murray’s Quarterly

- Used for satire

- By August of 1818, it seemed to be universally known and read
Characteristics

Woo!
Victor Frankenstein

• Main character
• The “original” mad scientist
• Plays god and rebels against the laws of nature
• “The Modern Prometheus”
• Theme of dangerous knowledge
Frankenstein's Monster

- Compared to Adam from “The Bible”
- Nameless
- Gentle and sensitive by nature
- Intelligent and intellectual
- Treated cruelly and rejected by all from “birth”
  ...’cause he’s ugly
- Possible reference to Shelley’s premature baby that died
Robert Walton

- Story is told through his letters to his sister
- Letters open and end the story
- Provides another perspective on the story, less attached
- Is an explorer like Victor, less educated

Watson doesn’t get a photograph.
Elizabeth Lavenza

- Passive and patient
- Innocent, adored, and beautiful

Justine Moritz

- Servant
- Accepted into Frankenstein family

Henry Clerval

- Opposite of Victor
- More of an interest in language
- Close childhood friend

Alphonse Frankenstein

- Victor’s father
- The ideal, good father
- Reminder of the importance of family
• Gothic novel

• “Listen to my tale...”

• Monster or Victim?
References to Frankenstein...

woo!
70s and 80s Cheese

Young Frankenstein...

Telephone...
I would like, if I may, to take you on a strange journey.
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
It starts in my belly
Then up to my heart
Into my mouth, I can't keep it shut
Do you recognize, the smell
Is that how you tell us apart

I fool myself to sleep and dream
Nobody's here
No-one but me
So cool
You're hardly there
Why can't this, be killing you

Frankenstein would want your mind
Your lovely head
Your lovely head
Your lovely head

[Links to the song: **Lovely Head (Live at Shepherd's Bush Empire 03-12-01)**]
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!