**Vocabulary/References in Frankenstein**

“I am in blood stepped in so far…” *Macbeth*, Act 3, Scene 4. Macbeth has killed Duncan and Banquo and realizes he’s in too deep to turn back.

James Blundell: English obstetrician, born 1790. Performed the first successful blood transfusion for treatment of a hemorrhage.

Pound of flesh: From *The Merchant of Venice*. Antonio owes Shylock a literal pound of his flesh. Now used to mean a demanding debt that is difficult to repay.

“Mix metaphors:” Elizabeth mocks Frankenstein for mushing *Macbeth* and *The Merchant of Venice* together

“Second fundamental theorem:” A theory published in Rudolf Clausius’ 1867 *The Mechanical Theory of Heat*, the second fundamental theorem states, “It is impossible to construct a device that produces no other effect than transfer of heat from lower temperature body to higher temperature body.” That is, heat naturally wants to equalize itself; it will not “flow backwards” from a colder object to a hotter one, but rather flow from the hotter object to the cold until they are the same temperature.

University of Ingolstadt (/ ˈɪŋɡɔlˌʃtat/): In operation between 1472 and 1800, the University of Ingolstadt was a prominent Bavarian university with five colleges: humanities, sciences, theology, law, and medicine.

Natural Philosophy: Natural science

Galvanization: the process of coating iron or steel in zinc to protect the metal and prevent rusting

Albertus Magnus: A German friar, probably born in 1193, who wrote about law, alchemy, botany, zoology, phrenology, and minerology. Magnus was later canonized as a Catholic saint and is one of the Doctors of the Catholic Church.

Alchemy: From the Arabic *al-kīmiyā*, alchemy was a branch of science devoted to purifying metals. Chrysopoeia, the attempt to transform “base metals,” particularly lead, into gold, was a common goal of alchemists.

Luigi Galvani: An 18th c. Italian physician who discovered bioelectricity, the electricity within the cells of animals.

Bioelectromagnetics: The study of the electricity that resides within biological creatures.

Bacon: Francis Bacon, a 17th c. English philosopher, an early developer of the scientific method,

and the father of empiricism, the theory that knowledge comes only from observation and sensory experience.

Pythagoras: Born 570 BC, Pythagoras was probably the first man to call himself a philosopher. He is credited with the idea of communalism, the law of proportions, and, of course, the Pythagorean theorem.

*Principia Mathematica*: The *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica* (Latin, *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*) is a three-part volume that details Newton’s laws of motion and his law of gravitation.

Gregarious: sociable, chatty

Frenetic: Wild, frantic, uncontrolled

Perfunctory: carried out with a minimum amount of effort; halfhearted

Mendeleev: Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev, born 1834, was a chemist and physicist who studied periodic trends and detailed the Periodic table.

Chimera: an illusion; a dream that cannot be realized

Cornelius Agrippa: A Roman theologian born 1468. Agrippa wrote extensively on the occult sciences and natural magic.

The Red Death: The fictitious disease in Edgar Allen Poe’s short story *The Masque of the Red Death*.

“*What a piece of work is man?*” Hamlet, Act 2, Scene 2

Anathema: someone or something that one intensely dislikes

Enervate: to weaken, to drain of energy

Magnum Opus: Latin, *great work*, a masterpiece

Charnel house: a vault where human remains, particularly skeletal remains, are stored

Ribband: a long, thin strip of wood used in shipbuilding to give the ribs of the ship structure and support

Plainpalais: A neighborhood in Geneva, Switzerland.

Sepsis: A poor bodily reaction to infection that can quickly become the life-threatening septic shock, which is characterized by a severe drop in blood pressure and fast, shallow breathing.

Petruchio: the male protagonist in *The Taming of the Shrew*

“We that are so young” *King Lear*, Act 5, Scene 3

Son of the Morning: Lucifer

Fermat: A 17th c. French lawyer and mathematician, credited with developments of early calculus.

“If you prick us, do we not bleed:” *Merchant of Venice*, Act 3, Scene 1

Brave new world: *The Tempest*, Act 5, Scene 1

Mark: The currency used in the German empire until 1914. One Mark was equal to 100 pfennings [[ˈpfɛnɪç]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help%3AIPA/Standard_German).

“Rushy foreign pig:” German and Russian relations were shaky at the onset of the 19th century and deteriorated sharply following the creation of the German Empire in 1871.

“Lepers:” Leprosy is a bacterial infection that damages the nervous system, skin, and eyes. It is contagious (hence, leper colonies) and can be identified by the characteristic rashes and deformities it causes.

“In the evening by the fire when stories were told…:” The opening line of *The Story of the Youth Who Went Forth to Learn What Fear Was*, a German folktale that appears in *Grimm’s Fairy Tales* (1812.) The story features a clever boy who outwits many fearsome creatures and situations.

*Macbeth*, *Titus Andronicus*: Two of Shakespeare’s bloodiest plays: Macbeth “unseams” a man from naval to jaw; *Titus Andronicus* contains the rape and mutilation of Lavinia, whose hands and tongue are cut off so she cannot name her attackers. The latter is widely considered to be Shakespeare’s goriest work and was too graphic for popular audiences at the time of its release.

“You taught me language…:” *The Tempest*, Act 1, Scene 2

John Hemmings and Henry Condell: Actors in Shakespeare’s company who compiled the First Folio

Orkney Islands: A chain of islands in Scotland’s Northern Isles

Aberdeen: A city in northern Scotland

Hirelings: A derogatory term for one hired to do menial work

“Have you prayed tonight, Desdemona?:” *Othello*, Act 5, Scene 2

“A quarrel most unnatural…:” *Richard III*, Act 1, Scene 2

“That death’s unnatural that kills for loving…:” *Othello*, Act 5, Scene 2

Tartary: A [region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tartary) of Asia that now is Siberia, Central Asia, Mongolia, and Manchuria.