

## **Why you should read Frankenstein...**

1. Since the story has been recreated many times through film, we think we know the story, but the actual novel is perceptive, moving and quite philosophical.
2. It is a great, quick read -- Shelley is a master of suspense, and the suspense results in a page-turner that is hard to put down.
3. Although a “ghost story” at heart, the novel includes perceptive insights into human nature.
4. The “monster” and his creator are wonderfully complex – the reader is simultaneously repulsed and yet compassionate towards both.

## **Why you may struggle with Frankenstein...**

1. Shelley’s syntax – a product of her time – is quite different from what our modern sensibilities are accustomed to and requires the reader to adjust a bit.
2. A pervasive sense of doom hooks the reader, but casts a gloom and a sense of foreboding over the events of the novel.
3. It is easy to become frustrated with the narrator -- who seems clear-eyed and perceptive, yet makes many mistakes.

### **Still interested?**

**Download the novel for free at one of the following sites:**

<http://www.literature.org/authors/shelley-mary/frankenstein/>

**With annotation and critical essays:**

<http://www.english.upenn.edu/Projects/knarf/frank.html>