

## Week 2

Discussion Questions for *Frankenstein* (first half of novel). Use textual evidence to support your analyses.

1. Feminists in the twentieth century were consistently disappointed in Mary Shelley's writing of *Frankenstein* because they felt her female characters are too weak and passive (they expected something different from the daughter of a radical proto-feminist like Mary Wollstonecraft). Refute or defend that charge by so many feminist scholars. In other words, are Shelley's female characters weak and passive? (Look in particular at Elizabeth, Caroline and Justine.)
2. Some readers have suggested that the novel only seems to be male dominated, that in fact Shelley's male characters (like Victor, Walton and Clerval) are really female characters in substance and are only masculine in their names and physical descriptions. What do you think?
3. What issues regarding females and writing/creativity, etc., raised by Bradstreet and/or Woolf do you see taken up by Mary Shelley? First, identify the issue(s); then discuss whether Shelley represents it/them similarly or differently.

For next week, select one of these questions to develop further into a one- to two-page mini-essay. Follow MLA style and use plenty of textual evidence, citing as needed.