DOMANDE FRANKESTEIN

1. What qualities does the traveller attribute to his father?
2. Why does the traveller tell the story of his father's marriage?
3. Make a list of words which show the traveller's father's attitude to his young wife? You could start with gratitude.
4. The traveller gives an idealistic picture of his parents' marriage. Can you think of any negative aspects in the traveller's father's treatment of his wife?
5. What expression suggests that the traveller's upbringing was the reverse of harsh?
6. Why did the traveller's mother choose Elisabeth Lavenza as the child she would bring up as her own? Why not one of the other peasant children?
7. It is a necessity, a passion, to the traveller's mother to be 'the guardian angel of the afflicted'. Comment on the suggestion sometimes made that, in choosing Elisabeth, she is class-conscious in her attitude to the afflicted.
8. In what two roles does the traveller describe Elisabeth Lavenza with regard to himself?
9. How does the traveller see Elisabeth from the beginning? How does he grow to see her?
10. '…till death she was to be mine only' What ominous suggestiion is there in the concluding sentence of Chapter 1?
11. How do the traveller and his companion, Elisabeth, respond differently to nature?
12. How does Clerval differ from the traveller?
13. How did the traveller channel his passion from when he was young?
14. What was his curiosity directed towards?
15. Pick out words with religoius associations in the description of Elisabeth. What was the cumulative effect of these?
16. In the second paragraph of pag 41 (chapter II) the traveller makes a contrast between his happy childhood and his 'after a tale of misery'. Put the words into two columns. Which group of words is dominant?
17. What glory did the young Victor seek?
18. What did Victor see as the last effort of his guardian angel to avert the fate that threatened him?
19. (chapter III) One word in the first paragraph continues the idea of fate. What is it?
20. Describe Victor's reaction to his mother's death?

21. Which of the following words woudl you choose to describe Frankestein at this point of the novel? Give reasons for your choice of words.

    *Ambitious, over-ambitious, disturbed, controlled, modest , over-confident, naive, enthusiastic.*

22. (chapter IV) What are Frankestein's first reactions to his discovery that he is 'capable of bestowing animation on lifeless matter'?
23. In paragraph II pag 57 how does F. indicate he was aspiring to become greater than his nature would allow?
24. Why did he decide to make the being of gigantic stature?
25. F. mentions the variety of feelings which drove him on. What do you think was his chief motive?
26. What are the effects of his work on F.? Write a list of physical, emotional and spiritual effects.
27. Find words which suggest Frankenstein's present feeling that his creation of a human being was unnatural, disgusting and against the laws of religion?
28. What according to Frankenstein, shows that his pursuit of knowledge was an 'unlawful' activity, 'not befitting the human mind'?
29. What else does F. neglect apart from his family and friends?
30. (chapter V) How does F. first describe the monster? Note what he says about his eyes, breathing, first movement, limbs, features, skin, hair, teeth, complexion, lips. What contrast creates the sense of horror with which Frankestein is filled?
31. What is the beauty of F.'s dream replaced by? (pag. 61)
32. What is horrible about F.'s dream? What physical signs indicate his sense of horror?
33. Pick out further details which convey F.'s sense of horror at his creation?
34. What disturbs Clerval about F.'s behaviour (pag. 66)?
35. (chapter VI) how does Eliabeth's letter contribute to the novel: in terms of narrative and thematically?
36. 'A selfish pursuit had cramped and narrowed me'. F is referring to his studies. On pag. 76 what does he contrast with his selfish studies?