**AP English Literature and Composition**

***Frankenstein*—Literary Analysis of Passages**

1. Choose **one** of the passages you brought to class. For that passage A) explain the context of the passage in a complete sentence; B) make an assertion about at least **two** literary elements in the passage and how they develop a thematic topic; C) explain your assertion, including quoted “snippets” from the passage in your explanation. You don’t have to explain the meaning of the thematic topic, but you do need to explain what the passage says—implicitly or explicitly—about the topic. You need to include and draw a box around the literary elements and thematic topic from your assertion in the explanation.
2. Choose **two** of the passages below. Follow the same instructions for these passages.

For all three passages (one of yours, two of mine), choose from the following literary elements:  *characterization, contrast, detail, figurative language, foil, foreshadowing, imagery,* and/or *tone*. **YOU MUST USE EACH LITERARY ELEMENT AT LEAST ONCE, AND YOU MAY NOT USE ANY LITERARY ELEMENT MORE THAN TWICE**. **ADDITIONALLY, YOU MUST DISCUSS AT LEAST ONE THEMATIC TOPIC FROM EACH GROUP.** This means you need to read all of the passages to determine prominent devices before you decide which passages you will explain.

*Ambition*

*Forbidden Knowledge*

*Science vs. Nature*

*Prejudice*

*Revenge*

*Isolation from Family and Society*

*Duty to Family*

1. Much as they were attached to each other, they seemed to draw inexhaustible stores of affection from a very mine of love to bestow them upon me. My mother's tender caresses and my father's smile of benevolent pleasure while regarding me are my first recollections. I was their plaything and their idol, and something better—their child, the innocent and helpless creature bestowed on them by heaven, whom to bring up to good, and whose future lot it was in their hands to direct to happiness or misery, according as they fulfilled their duties towards me. With this deep consciousness of what they owed towards the being to which they had given life, added to the active spirit of tenderness that animated both, it may be imagined that while during every hour of my infant life I received a lesson of patience, of charity, and of self-control, I was so guided by a silken cord that all seemed but one train of enjoyment to me.
2. Harmony was the soul of our companionship, and the diversity and contrast that subsisted in our characters drew us nearer together. She busied herself with following the aerial creations of the poets; and in the majestic and wondrous scenes which surrounded our Swiss home —the sublime shapes of the mountains, the changes of the seasons, tempest and calm, the silence of winter, and the life and turbulence of our Alpine summers—she found ample scope for admiration and delight. While my companion contemplated with a serious and satisfied spirit the magnificent appearances of things, I delighted in investigating their causes. The world was to me a secret which I desired to divine. Curiosity, earnest research to learn the hidden laws of nature, gladness akin to rapture, as they were unfolded to me, are among the earliest sensations I can remember.
3. The saintly soul of Elizabeth shone like a shrine-dedicated lamp in our peaceful home. Her sympathy was ours; her smile, her soft voice, the sweet glance of her celestial eyes, were ever there to bless and animate us. She was the living spirit of love to soften and attract; I might have become sullen in my study, rough through the ardour of my nature, but that she was there to subdue me to a semblance of her own gentleness.
4. My temper was sometimes violent, and my passions vehement; but by some law in my temperature they were turned not towards childish pursuits but to an eager desire to learn, and not to learn all things indiscriminately. I confess that neither the structure of languages, nor the code of governments, nor the politics of various states possessed attractions for me. It was the secrets of heaven and earth that I desired to learn; and whether it was the outward substance of things or the inner spirit of nature and the mysterious soul of man that occupied me, still my inquiries were directed to the metaphysical, or in its highest sense, the physical secrets of the world. It was the secrets of heaven and earth that I desired to learn; and whether it was the outward substance of things or the inner spirit of nature and the mysterious soul of man that occupied me, still my inquiries were directed to the metaphysical, or in its highest sense, the physical secrets of the world.
5. By one of those caprices of the mind which we are perhaps most subject to in early youth, I at once gave up my former occupations, set down natural history and all its progeny as a deformed and abortive creation, and entertained the greatest disdain for a would-be science which could never even step within the threshold of real knowledge. In this mood of mind I betook myself to the mathematics and the branches of study appertaining to that science as being built upon secure foundations, and so worthy of my consideration.
6. When I look back, it seems to me as if this almost miraculous change of inclination and will was the immediate suggestion of the guardian angel of my life—the last effort made by the spirit of preservation to avert the storm that was even then hanging in the stars and ready to envelop me. Her victory was announced by an unusual tranquility and gladness of soul which followed the relinquishing of my ancient and latterly tormenting studies. It was thus that I was to be taught to associate evil with their prosecution, happiness with their disregard.

It was a strong effort of the spirit of good, but it was ineffectual. Destiny was too potent, and her immutable laws had decreed my utter and terrible destruction.