Resources

Percy Shelley

Biography:  http://www.biography.com/people/percy-bysshe-shelley-9481527

Here is a brief biography of Percy Bysshe Shelley.  Who was he?  What was his life like?  What did he do?  Why is he famous?  Use this to gain some background info on his life.

"Ozymandias":  

This article is about the background of Shelley's famous poem, "Ozymandias".  Be sure to analyze the poem as well.  You can find the text by simply googling it.

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

The Birth of a Monster:  http://thesoftanonymous.com/2012/10/30/frankenstein-the-birth-of-a-monster/

1816 is known as the Year Without a Summer because the Summer was plagued with floods, cold weather, and volcanic eruptions.  It was during this summer that Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley came up with the idea of Frankenstein.  This article tackles that retreat as well as other events that inspired the creation of one of the most popular horror stories of all time.  What influenced Mary Shelley?  How was she responding to the world around her when writing Frankenstein?

Biography of Mary Shelley:  http://www.biography.com/people/mary-shelley-9481497

Here is a brief biography of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.  Who was she?  What was her life like?  What did she do?  Why is she famous?  Use this to gain some background info on the life of Frankenstein's author.

Lord Byron

The Life of Lord Byron:  http://www.biography.com/people/lord-byron-21124525

Here is an extensive biography of Lord Byron, the Shelleys' BFF and famous Romantic poet.  This biography will give you pretty much all the information you need on Byron.  Figure out a brief timeline of his life and the impact he had on the Romantic movement.  How did his life and work influence the movement?  Why is he important?

One of Byron’s biggest contributions to literature is the Byronic hero. How is this character type seen in *Frankenstein*? Is there a Byronic hero? Who? Can you make any connections between the Byronic hero and popular film and book characters from today? One of the websites, tvtropes, catalogues all types of pop culture references and patterns. Use both sources to help support your understanding of the Byronic hero.

**Industrial Revolution**

Crash Course World History: Industrial Revolution: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhL5DCizj5c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhL5DCizj5c)

John Green gives you a crash course in the Industrial Revolution. From this video, you should be able to determine the impact the Industrial Revolution had on the world in general. Look for the what, when, why, and how here. What was the Industrial Revolution? When and where did it begin? Who were the major names? What are the lasting impacts? How might these development have impacted Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley as she wrote *Frankenstein*?


This article sets out to answer why the Industrial Revolution occurred in England. Look here for more details and apply the same questions as above. How might these developments have impacted Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley as she was writing *Frankenstein*?


Look at these pictures from the Industrial Revolution. What "harsh realities" are present here that the Romantics may have been rebelling against? What was life like for an average person during this time? How might this have influenced Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley as she was writing *Frankenstein*?
**The Myth of Prometheus**


This article gives a brief overview of the myth of Prometheus, the who, what, when, where, and why. From this article you should be able to answer the following questions: who was Prometheus? What did he do? Why is he important? Why is Frankenstein subtitled "The Modern Prometheus?" Who is the Prometheus in the story and why?

Prometheus: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxy8ZING21M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dxy8ZING21M)

This YouTube video gives a brief account of the myth of Prometheus as well. How does it compare to the other account of his life?

Prometheus in Art: Do a Google image search for "Prometheus Myth"

Prometheus has been a popular subject for paintings and sculptures for thousands of years. Look at at least 3 different depictions of Prometheus (make sure you note the artist and the year of creation) and analyze the paintings like we did for the Romantic art. What colors are present? What images are most striking? What are some emotions you feel when looking at the piece? What are some central themes of each piece? Again, how on earth is this related to *Frankenstein*?

**Paradise Lost**

Summary of "Paradise Lost": [http://www.paradiselost.org/5-sum-short.html](http://www.paradiselost.org/5-sum-short.html)

Here is a brief summary of "Paradise Lost" by John Milton. I am not going to make you read the entire poem, as it is over 10,000 lines long (for comparison, "Ozymandias" is only 14 lines long). Use this as background knowledge for the rest of your research on the poem. Unlike many poems you may have read, "Paradise Lost" has an actual story, much like a book.


Here is a basic overview of the poem "Paradise Lost" by John Milton. You should be able to get the basic who, what, when, where, and why from this article. Who wrote the poem? When? What is it about? What are some of its major themes? What influence does this poem have on Romantic and Gothic literature in general, and Frankenstein, specifically?

William Blake's Illustrations of "Paradise Lost": [http://www.pitt.edu/~ulin/Paradise/Blake1808.htm](http://www.pitt.edu/~ulin/Paradise/Blake1808.htm)
Author and painter William Blake painted a series of water colors illustrating the events of Milton’s "Paradise Lost." For each of the images (click them to enlarge), ask yourself the same questions we asked when looking at the Romantic art gallery: What colors are present? What images jump out at you? What emotions do you see present? What do these illustrations tell you about "Paradise Lost?"

**Mary Wollstonecraft**

*Note: These resources are for Mary Wollstonecraft, the mother of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, the author of Frankenstein.*

Detailed biography of Mary Wollstonecraft:
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/wollstonecraft_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/empire_seapower/wollstonecraft_01.shtml)

This biography was written as part of a television series on British history. Use it to the who, what, when, where, and why: Who was Mary Wollstonecraft? When did she live? When and how did she die? Who did she marry and for what was he known? For what did Mary Wollstonecraft become famous? What were the main arguments of her "Vindications of the Rights of Women"? How did Wollstonecraft's life influence her political beliefs and her writing? How might Wollstonecraft's writings have influenced her daughter's life and how her daughter wrote Frankenstein?

Three Minute Philosophy: Mary Wollstonecraft: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjalBmkmkvE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjalBmkmkvE)

This video is short but it is packed with information about Mary Wollstonecraft and her contributions to the fields of Feminism and the effects of education on the association of ideas. Use this video to supplement your understanding of her work.