

21L000/21W041J Essay One

For this essay you will complete a set of steps listed below to produce a five-page (1250-1500 words) reading of details in a chapter from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

1. Read Volume 1, Chapter IV (pp. 34-38, *Norton Critical Edition*) of the 1818 edition of Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Annotate the chapter, if you have not done so already, marking striking passages, unfamiliar words, details that amuse or puzzle or move you, explicit sources or references, unusual phrasing, words that point to important issues for understanding character or theme in the text.
2. When you are ready to record your observations, go to Annotation Studio.
3. When you open up the chapter, you can select text you wish to annotate, then click the "Annotation Editor" button. You will see a new box into which you can enter your comments. Then "Add tags," that is, keywords from your comment. Hit "Save" when you are finished.
4. You may annotate as many details as you wish and make your comments any length.
 - a. One goal might be to get a variety of different kinds of annotations, from the personal impression, to something that requires looking up information in a dictionary or encyclopedia, to something more reflective or interpretive.
 - b. Another approach might be to note all the examples of a certain phenomenon you have noticed: words that speak to different sensory images, for example, or place names, or allusions to other authors, or language reminiscent of details from elsewhere in the novel.
 - c. You might want to cover material from various parts of the chapter or alternatively focus on a particular paragraph or moment. Consider why you have chosen the approach you did.
5. When you have finished your online annotation, you can begin developing the data you generated through this work.
 - a. Look up information to answer questions you have about certain details.
 - b. Look for patterns in the details you notice—certain repetitions of sounds, words, or phrases, or conversely significant breaks or changes in a pattern.
 - c. See what questions or discoveries your annotations inspire. Do multiple readings of a certain passage suggest meanings you did not see the first time? Does Shelley use certain references or kinds of language for a particular effect? What parts of the chapter seem most energetic and immediate? Do you see a change from the opening to the closing sentences in the focus of the chapter?
6. Having taken notes on your annotations, please write your paper as a report for your peers on what emerged from your study of details in the chapter.
 - a. You may speak in the first person about your process of reading and thinking about the text.
 - b. You may choose a format that works for you; no need to employ a five-paragraph structure or to advance an argument.

- c. You can entertain questions and doubts and withhold answers and certainties.
7. If you get material from outside sources (and consider a dictionary or encyclopedia a source), you can mention them in the essay. If you know MLA Works Cited format, make a Works Cited list at the end of the paper. Otherwise list your sources in alphabetical order in a consistent format.
 8. Your goal is to use annotation to observe and document your own process of reading; this documentation will in turn support your written report on the process. For the revision you will get a chance to develop your observations more fully. Try for now to focus on the details themselves and to let your ideas emerge from the text.