2.15 Literature: Frankenstein (Mary Shelley): Test Pack

AQA 8702 · about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Extract: Frankenstein, Chapter 5 (the creation of the creature)

From Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley (1818, public domain). In this extract, Victor Frankenstein describes the moment his creature first comes to life.

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful!--Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing; his teeth of a pearly whiteness; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion, and straight black lips.

1 Look again at the extract above. Identify two different colour words or phrases Shelley uses to describe the creature's appearance.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

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2 Identify two details from the extract that show Victor's reaction to seeing the creature come to life, and briefly explain what each detail suggests about his feelings at that moment.

(Total for Question 2 is 4 marks)

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3 Answer the following short questions about the context of the novel.

(a) In which year was Frankenstein first published (anonymously)? **(1)**

(b) At which house on Lake Geneva did Mary Shelley begin the story, during a famous ghost-story-writing challenge in the summer of 1816? **(1)**

(c) What is the novel's subtitle, which links Victor Frankenstein to a figure from Greek mythology? **(1)**

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.15 Literature: Frankenstein (Mary Shelley): Test Pack

Question 1

gives one accurate colour word or phrase from the extract, e.g. yellow, dull yellow, or lustrous black **B1**

gives a second, different accurate colour word or phrase from the extract, e.g. pearly, dun-white, or black **B1**

Answer: Any two of: yellow / dull yellow (the eye and skin), lustrous black (hair), pearly (whiteness of the teeth), dun-white (the eye sockets), black (the lips).

Question 2

identifies a first relevant detail, e.g. an anxiety that almost amounted to agony **B1**

explains what this detail suggests, e.g. shows the painful, nervous tension of his long wait for this moment **B1**

identifies a second, different relevant detail, e.g. Beautiful!--Great God! **B1**

explains what this detail suggests, e.g. the sudden exclamation shows his shock that what he planned as beautiful has turned out horrifying **B1**

Answer: Accept any two textually supported details, each with a linked explanation, e.g. 'anxiety that almost amounted to agony' (dread and tension before animation); 'Beautiful!--Great God!' (shocked horror at the result); 'convulsive motion agitated its limbs' (alarm at the creature's uncontrolled first movements).

Question 3

(a) 1818 **B1**

(a) Answer: 1818.

(b) Villa Diodati **B1**

(b) Answer: Villa Diodati.

(c) The Modern Prometheus **B1**

(c) Answer: The Modern Prometheus.

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