



Frankenstein Literary Allusions

allusion (*n.*) a literary device in which an author references something of historical, cultural, or literary significance, such as a major historical event or figure, myth, or literary text

Literary allusions were commonplace in the literature of Shelley's time, and *Frankenstein* contains many. Fill out the chart to analyze how Shelley uses allusions in her novel. Think about why Shelley might have included these allusions in the story, especially in relation to how she did or did not alter each. If you are unfamiliar with an allusion, do some research to better understand the reference.

Allusion	Reference(s) in Text (cite quote/page number)	How the Allusion is Used
Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"	"... or if I should come back to you as worn and woeful as the "Ancient Mariner?" (p. 18)	Walton compares the risks of his North Pole expedition to those of the Ancient Mariner. Shelley uses the allusion to underscore the risks of scientific discovery.
Prometheus myth		
John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>		

RL.9-10.9 Analyze how an author draws on and transforms source material in a specific work (e.g., how Shakespeare treats a theme or topic from Ovid or the Bible or how a later author draws on a play by Shakespeare).

RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).