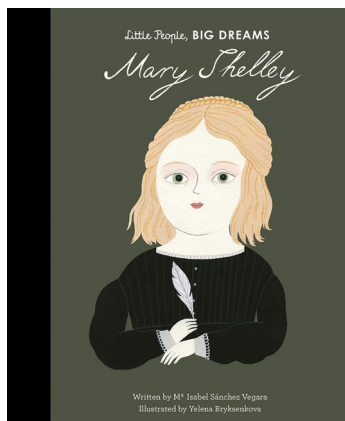


MARY SHELLEY AND FRANKENSTEIN

Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein*, first published in 1818, has had enormous cultural influence, especially on literature and film. Both the character of Mary herself and the 'creature' she created have found their way into many books for children and young people.



Mary Shelley by Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara, illustrated by Yelena Bryksenkova (Little People, Big Dreams)
 Frances Lincoln 9781786037473

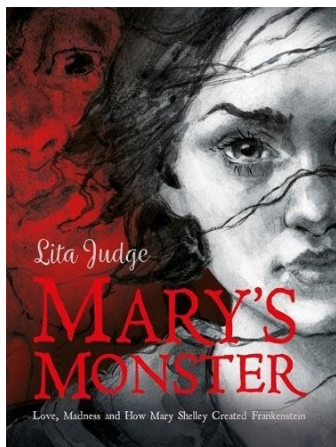
A skilful short introduction to Mary Shelley's life which gives an outline that is simple enough for young readers to understand while bringing in more complex concepts that readers could explore further. Mary is shown to be interested in scientific and philosophical ideas and her legacy as 'the mother of modern science fiction' is made clear.



Mary and Frankenstein: The true story of Mary Shelley by Linda Bailey and Júlia Sardà
 Andersen Press 9781783447633 [originally published in hardback as *Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein*]

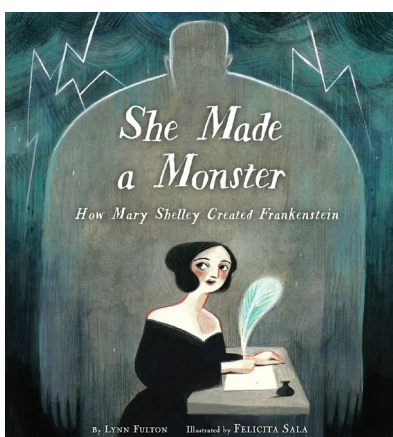
In this picturebook, Linda Bailey tells Mary's story focusing on the salient details of interest to young people using an immediacy of language - short sentences, the present tense and a direct address to the reader. The significance of reading and imagination in Mary's childhood frame the story. We learn of the influence of her father William Godwin and more particularly her mother Mary Wollstonecraft whose ideas about women's rights and freedom lived on for her daughter, even though she died when the latter was a few days old. The centrepiece of the book is the meeting of minds at the villa near Lake Geneva where Mary, her stepsister Claire, the poets Shelley and Byron and Dr Polidori challenge each other to write ghost stories and from whence the idea for *Frankenstein* came. The images in Júlia Sardà's illustrations are delineated in a suitably dark palette of predominantly black, brown, grey and blood red, conveying the Gothic mood of the story.

Teaching notes written by the CLPE teaching team for this book which was shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 are available here: <https://clpe.org.uk/teaching-resources-cilip-kate-greenaway-medal-2020>



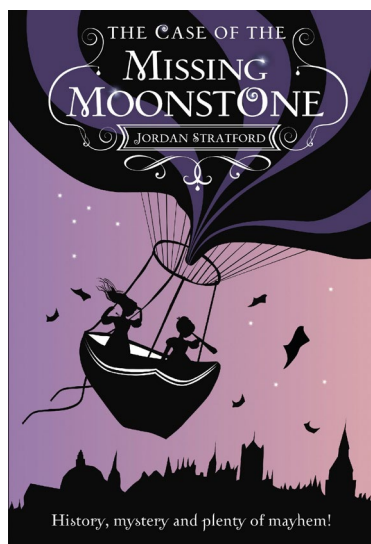
Mary's Monster by Lita Judge
Wren & Rook 9781526360410

A beautifully illustrated biography of Mary Shelley written in verse from her point of view, demonstrating how she defied the restrictions imposed on women of her time in both her lifestyle and in her writing. Full of feeling and aimed at young adults rather than children, this book is inspiring for the way it exemplifies the evolution of creativity as Mary develops the creature at the centre of her famous novel *Frankenstein*.



She Made a Monster. How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein by Lynn Fulton and Felicitia Sala
Alfred A. Knopf 9780525579601

The way Mary Shelley reached into her imagination and used information she had acquired from her past is at the heart of this picturebook that portrays how she came to write her famous story. The sombre shades of the colour palette used by Felicitia Sala capture the austere atmosphere at the house on the shores of Lake Geneva where Frankenstein's monster was born. Another picturebook *Through the Tempests Dark and Wild. A Story of Mary Shelley* by Sharon Darrow and Angela Barrett (Walker 9780744556643) which deals with an earlier period in Mary's life is sadly out of print but worth acquiring second hand or borrowing from a library.



The Case of the Missing Moonstone. The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency by Jordan Stratford, illustrated by Kelly Murphy
Corgi Yearling 9780440871163

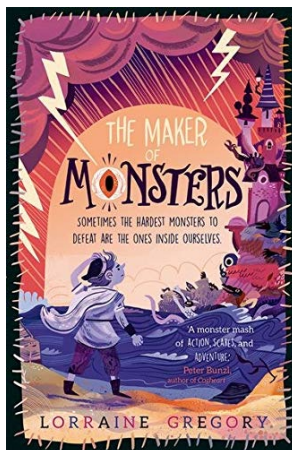
Set in 1826, some literary licence allows two not quite contemporary characters from history to work together. Ada Byron, brilliant and irascible mathematician and scientist, and Mary Godwin, avid reader and seeker after romance and adventure, meet when they are tutored by a certain Percy Shelley. Realising that there are crimes that go unsolved, they start the Wollstonecraft Detective Agency, named in honour of Mary's late mother. Biographical notes at the end of the book explain some truths about the real people who inspired the characters. Sequel: *The Case of the Girl in Grey* 9780440871187. Included in CLPE's Girl Detectives booklist

<https://clpe.org.uk/library/booklists/girl-detectives-booklist>



Wonderscape by Jennifer Bell
Walker 9781406391725

A transmogrified Mary Shelley makes an important appearance in this fast-moving adventure involving three 21st century children who find themselves transported and trapped inside a 25th century in-reality adventure game where each realm is themed around a hero from the past who is very much present within it. Free teaching notes written by CLPE staff can be found here: <https://clpe.org.uk/teaching-notes-wonderscape-jennifer-bell>



The Maker of Monsters by Lorraine Gregory
Oxford University Press 9780192768834

In a novel surely inspired by *Frankenstein*, Brat lives on an island with his master Lord Macawber who has ‘stitched together’ creatures ‘from the parts of many different monsters, before being dragged back to life using the magical art of necromancy’. When the monsters make war Brat has to escape and find help to defeat them.



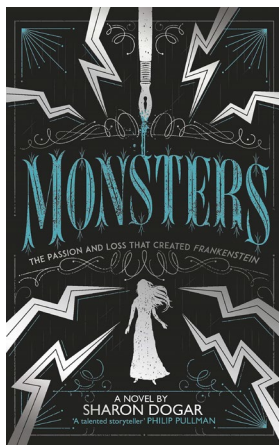
Strange Star by Emma Carroll
Faber & Faber 9780571317653

A novel that begins and ends at the Villa Diodati in Italy where Mary Shelley, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Claire Clairmont and Doctor John Polidori were invited in June 1816 by Lord Byron and challenged by him to write a ghost story. However, on this apparently inauspicious night an unexpected visitor arrives and tells her own tale which forms the centrepiece of this story. Emma Carroll weaves in many elements related to the myths that have developed around the Frankenstein story – a girl struck by lightning and a determined and driven scientist – and brings to light prejudices of the time towards women and people of colour.



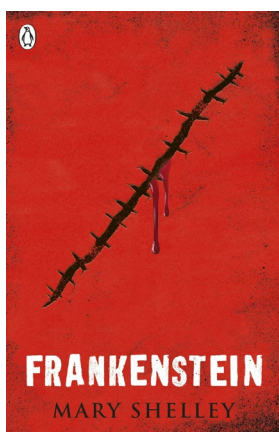
Mister Creecher by Chris Priestley
Bloomsbury 9781408811054

On New Year’s Day 1818 in London a young thief named Billy is attacked and rescued by a gigantic man. He and this man who he dubs Mister Creecher form an uneasy alliance and at the behest of his new companion, Billy begins to trail a certain Victor Frankenstein who Creecher claims has not kept an important promise that he made. The unlikely duo pursue their quarry to Oxford, then to the Lake District, becoming involved many dangerous adventures and encounters. There are references to other (mainly) 19th century literature in addition to *Frankenstein* along the way.



Monsters: the passion and loss that created Frankenstein by Sharon Dogar
Andersen Press 9781783449033

This YA novel tells the true story of Mary Godwin's passionate love for the poet Shelley, their elopement along with her stepsister Claire Clairmont and their itinerant and frequently poverty-stricken lives in Europe and in London due largely to a breach with both of their families. Related in the third person using the present tense, the story is seen very much from Mary's point of view and ultimately focuses on her birth as a writer.



Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

There are many editions available of the original novel, including one aimed at teenagers with an introduction by film director Haifaa Al Mansour (Penguin 'The Originals' series 9780241321645). Mary Sebag-Montefiore who has adapted the novel for children (Usborne 9781474924979) has written about the significance of the story today <https://usborne.com/gb/blog/post/tips-and-expert-advice/frankenstein>

For adults who would like to explore further:

Those interested in modern interpretations of the Frankenstein story may like to read:

The Monsters We Deserve by Marcus Sedgwick. Zephyr 9781788542319

Frankisstein: A Love Story by Jeanette Winterson. Vintage 9781784709952

Frankenstein in Baghdad by Ahmed Saadawi, translated from Arabic by Jonathan Wright. Oneworld Publications 9781786073976

Biographies of Mary Shelley:

Mary Shelley by Miranda Seymour Simon & Schuster 9781471174155

In Search of Mary Shelley. The Girl Who Wrote Frankenstein by Fiona Sampson. Profile Books 9781781255292

Romantic Outlaws. The Extraordinary Lives of Mary Wollstonecraft and Mary Shelley by Charlotte Gordon. Windmill Books 9780099592396

Film & TV:

A useful guide to the many versions of Frankenstein and related films can be found here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2021/feb/11/the-20-best-frankenstein-films-ranked>

The Haunting of Villa Diodati an episode of the TV series *Doctor Who* (series 12, episode 8) features an encounter that the Doctor has with Mary and Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, Dr Polidori and Claire Clairmont in the place where the challenge by Byron to write a ghost story came about.