Frankenstein Vocabulary

Prologue

fervent - passionate, glowing
perpetual - never ending, eternal
diffusing - to pour out, spread
phenomena - fact, event, or circumstance that can be observed, usually considered extraordinary or remarkable
eccentricities - deviating from a conventional pattern
ardent - characterized by strong enthusiasm
induce - to persuade
requisite - required; a necessity
dominion - sphere of influence or control
tranquilize - to make calm, peaceful, quiet
effusions - a pouring out of unrestrained expressions or feelings
inuring - to become used to something undesirable by prolonged subjection
dauntless - without fright or discouragement
inexorable - relentless, unyielding
allusion - reference to a historically significant person, place, or event
solicitude - concern, anxious care
capitulated - surrender on terms or conditions
repose - rest or sleep
conciliating - reconciling, a winning over
paroxysm - a spasm, fit, or sudden outburst
ameliorate - improve, to become or make better

Chapters I and II

indefatigable - tireless
intimate - very familiar, close
rankling - soreness, great pain
plaited - weave, braid
pittance - very small amount; a trifling
disconsolate - hopelessly sad
interment - burial
recompensing - reward; pay back, or payment
penury - very great poverty
chamois - small, goat-like antelope
ardor - great intensity; passion; strong enthusiasm
sublime - exalted; inspiring awe
rapture - elation; exhilaration
infidels - without religion or belief; an atheist
indulgence - liberal or lenient treatment
caprice - impulsive change of mind, whim
filial - affectionate; obedient; pertaining to a son or daughter
metaphysical - mystical, abstract, spiritual
predilection - preference, partiality
inclementy - severity of weather, stormy
chimerical - illusionary, fanciful, dreamlike
avidity - eagerness; greediness
imbued - filled with ideas, feelings, etc.
tyros - beginners, amateurs
tertiary - third place or rank
impediments - hindrance; block
repined - express discontent
averred - to declare in a positive, formal way

Chapters III and IV

menaced - threatened, put in peril
imprudence - unwise
prognosticated - to predict on the basis of present indications
fortitude - valor; determination
benignity - kindly disposition; gracious
irreparable - hopeless, irreversible
deferred - to put off, delay, postpone
zeal - eagerness, enthusiast
chaise - two-wheeled, open carriage
imbued - saturated, filled
reprobate - morally unprincipled person
recapitulation - the act of being repeated; summarized
panegyric - speech filled with praise, compliments
elixir - sweetened solution containing medicine
palpable - acceptable to the mind or sensibilities
mien - appearance, look
erroneously - mistakenly
physiognomy - facial features which reveal characteristics
dogmatism - authoritarian assertion of opinion
pedant - one who flaunts learning
abstruse - difficult to understand
facile - achieved with little effort
esteem - high regard, favorable opinion
receptacle - a container or place for keeping things
emaciated - starved, extremely thin
unhallowed - not sacred, wicked, sinful, evil
incipient - just beginning, early stage

Chapters V and VI

delineate - describe in words
lassitude - weariness
shroud - burial cloth or garments
demoniacal - devilish, very wicked
palpitation - throbbing, beating rapidly
languor - lack of enthusiasm
allude - hint at, mention slightly
unremitting - steady
pertinacity - great persistence, not giving up, continuing, stubbornness
remorse - deep, painful regret
fetter - restrain, tie up
placid - peaceful, quiet
perservancy - abnormality, difference
dissipate - totally scatter, dispel
vivacity - liveliness
vacillating - unsteady, wavering
antipathy - strong dislike, hate
encomiums - songs of praise, highly complimentary
diffident - lacking in self-confidence
eulogy - speech or writing in praise of the dead
dilatoriness - lateness, not prompt
perambulations - walks or strolls
salubrious - healthful
Chapters VII and VIII

prognosticate - to forecast, to predict from facts
tedious - long and tiring
promontory - a high point of land extending from the coast into the land
dirge - funeral song
precipices - cliff, crag, steep mountainside
venerable - worthy of respect or reverence due to age, character, or importance
alleviate - to relieve, to lessen, to make easier
deposition - testimony under oath or sworn testimony in writing
candor - speaking honestly, frankness, sincerity
mockery - to ridicule, to make fun of
ignominious - shameful, disgraceful, dishonorable
exculpated - to free from blame, prove guiltless
countenance - facial expressions
excruciated - detested, abhorred
adduced - to give as proof or evidence
indignation - anger at something unworthy or unjust
conjecture - guess, theorize
wantonly - done in a reckless and malicious way; not moral
timorous - timid, easily frightened
approval - approval, favorable opinion
guile - deceit, sly tricks
absolution - freeing from guilt or blame
excommunication - a cutting off or removal from the church
obdurate - stubborn, obstinate; not repentant
perdition - loss of one’s soul; utter loss or destruction
lamentations - cries of sorrow or grief, wailing, mourning

Chapters IX and X

remorse - deep, painful regret for having done wrong
perceptible - to become aware of or understood through the senses
augmenting - making greater in size, number or amount; increasing
malice - a desire to hurt or harm others
unalterable - not changeable, permanent
efface - rub out, to obliterate
abhorrence - intense dislike
responding - becoming disheartened
sacrilege - an intentional injury to anything sacred
ephemeral - transitory; lasting for a brief time
epoch - beginning of a period of time or era when something striking happens
impetuous - impulsive, brash; rushing with violence
reverberated - resounded; reflected
anon - soon, in a short time
rent - to rip, to make an opening
divert - to turn aside from a direction; to distract or amuse
pinnacle - the highest point
surmount - to overcome; to ascend to the top and cross over
mutability - ability to change
diabolically - devilishly, wickedly
dissoluble - capable of being dissolved
negligently - habitually guilty of neglect
irrevocably - incapable of being retracted or revoked
commiserate - to feel or express sorrow or pity; to sympathize

dissolute - making greater in size, number or amount; increasing
impassive - incapable of being penetrated, allowing no passage
dormant - inactive; resembling sleep
orb - a sphere
canopied - covered
mode - a method, way, or manner of doing something
uncouth - crude, unrefined, awkward
inaarticulate - not distinct; irregular speech
offal - waste parts of a butchered animal; rubbish
assuage - to make less severe; to satisfy or appease
rambles - wanderings
disconsolate - gloomy, helplessly sad, despairing
hovel - small, miserable dwelling
barbarity - inhuman; harsh or cruel conduct; uncivilized
purloined - stolen
demeanor - the way a person looks and acts
countenance - expression of the face
imperceptible - very slight
pensive - thoughtful
symmetry - well-balanced arrangement of parts
venerable - deserving respect because of age, character, or importance
viands - food
enigmatical - an obscure riddle, puzzling, unexplainable
poignantly - very touching; keenly distressing to the mind or feelings
abstained - hold oneself back
articulate - distinctly, clear
exhortations - urgings by strong appeals
conjectured - guessed
mortification - shaming, humiliation
arbiters - one who has power to judge or decide
conciliating - to overcome the hatred of; to win favor; make calm and amenable; pacify, reconcile
exhilarated - made lively
execration - to denounce; to hate, to abhor or loathe

Chapters XIII and XIV

verdure - fresh greenness of flourishing vegetation
conjecture - guess or theory based on inconclusive facts
dispelling - driving away, scattering
cadence - rhythmic flow, vocal inflection
enraptured - filled with great delight
declamatory - overblown style of speaking, verbose
subsequent - following in time or order
degenerating - deteriorating or decaying; morally degrading
scion - a descendant
squalid - very dirty
unsullied - untainted, perfect cleanliness
subsist - to exist
stealth - secret or sly action
dote - to lavish excessive fondness
indignation - anger over something unjust
obnoxious - very disagreeable, offensive; hateful
flagrant - outrageous; glaring
zeal - eager desire or effort, enthusiasm
consummation - completion, fulfillment
ensuing - a consequence following immediately afterward
implants - tools
tenets - principles, beliefs
indelibly - permanently, something not easily erased
harem - multiple women living in a male-dominated dwelling, like a palace
emulation - trying to equal or excel
facilitated - made easy; helped bring about, assisted
exile - person forced to leave his or her country or home
expostulate - remonstrate in a friendly way; reason earnestly
reiterating - verbal repetition
mandate - an authoritative command
adverse - unfavorable, harmful

Chapters XV and XVI

deprecate - express strong disapproval of
portmanteau - stiff, oblong traveling bag with two compartments opening like a book; pouch
disquisition - long or formal speech or writing about a subject
vice - fault, bad habit
patriarch - male leader of a family or clan
imbued - filled with; inspired
alluring - strongly attractive
sagacity - keen, sound judgment
supplication - humble and earnest request or prayer
mediation - friendly intervention
intrusion - coming unasked and unwanted
instigate - urge on; stir up
consternation - great dismay; paralyzing terror
tumult - commotion
wantonly - done without reason or excuse; heartlessly
havoc - ruin, injury
impotence - helplessness
myriads - countless
imprudently - unwisely
appeased - satisfied
gesticulations - lively or excited movements of body parts
soothed - calmed or comforted
spurned - refused with scorn
inanimate - lifeless
vestige - trace; track; footprint
succor - help, aid
imprecate - call down evil curses on
rustic - a country person; rough in appearance
recompense - to award compensation, to make amends for damage
imbibed - to take in, to absorb, or assimilate

Chapters XVII and XVIII

ogre - monster
epithets - curses; hateful comments
benignity - kindliness, graciousness
sanguinary - bloodthirsty or bloody
requisition - a demand, a requirement

Chapters XIX and XX

concede - to acknowledge as true or proper
precipitate - to bring about suddenly; hasty; rash
insurmountable - unable to overcome
contortions - a twisting out of shape
detrimental - harmful; causing a disadvantage
detestation - hate, intense dislike
compassionate - helping those that suffer; feeling for another’s sorrow
malice - a desire to hurt or harm others
feint - a false pretense, movement intended to deceive
naught - nothing
disquisition - a formal discourse
exordium - an exposition or introduction of a speech or composition
dissipate - dispel, cause to disappear
solemnization - to turn into; to observe a formal ceremony
candor - speaking openly what one thinks, giving an honest opinion
manifold - of many kinds; many and various
dilatory - tending to delay, not prompt
guise - mask; pretense
coveted - eagerly desired (usually something of someone else’s)
impediment - hindrance, obstacle
intimated - suggested indirectly, hinted
machiavellian - evil plottings, secret schemes
acquiesced - to give in to, to consent passively
sedulous - hard-working, diligent
indolence - idleness, laziness
variegated - to give a variety of colors; to diversify
promontory - point of land extending into the water
chastened - restrained from excess, moderated
ineffectual - useless; without effect

Chapters XIX and XX

afforded - to have the financial means for
profound - coming from the depths of one’s being; extremely thoughtful
transitory - existing briefly, short-lived
debar - to exclude, forbid, prevent
alleging - stating positively as a reason or excuse
palpitate - beat very rapidly, throb
novelties - new or unusual things
expedite - make easy; speed up
remissness - negligence, carelessness in doing what one has to do
languid - weak, lacking energy or vitality
antiquity - things from times long ago, great age
rendezvous - meeting place
congenial - agreeable
dissuade - to discourage from a purpose or course of action by persuasion
remonstrate - to protest or object
benumbed - to make numb or inactive
tumult - commotion, noise, or uproar
immersed - absorbed; involved deeply
unremitting - incessant, persistent
malignant - highly injurious, showing ill-will
provocation - causing someone irritation
propagated - to reproduce
sophisms - a plausible but mistaken argument
profundity - a deep intellectual ability
presentiment - premonition, a sense of something about to occur
condescension - patronizing manner
wiliness - calculating
inexorable - relentless; not capable of being persuaded by pleas
insuperable - insurmountable, incapable of being overcome
atrocious - horrible, cruel, extremely evil
reverie - dreamy thoughts, thinking of pleasant things
cultivation - preparing land for crops by plowing and planting
debility - feebleness
political - prudent; wise in looking out for one's own interests
fortitude - courage in facing pain or danger

Chapters XXI and XXII

benevolent - kind, good natured, charitable
deposed - declared under oath
supposition - the act of believing an unproven statement; an assumption
augury - act of predicting the future; an omen
apothecary - druggist or pharmacist
interment - placement in the grave
squalidness - having a dirty appearance
languid - feeling weak; indifferent
livid - ash or pallid (usually due to anger)
retrospect - a review or contemplation of past events
incitement - to stir up, urge on, or provoke to anger
repugnance - offensive, repulsive
delirium - a clouded mental state, confusion
precarious - uncertain, dangerous, risky
enraptured - to move to delight
vexations - those problems that irritate or annoy
torpid - apathy; condition of inactivity
in quietude - a state of uneasiness
laudanum - an opium-based drug
indefatigable - untiring, tireless
erroneous - mistaken
unhallowed - unholy
consternation - sudden confusion or dismay
curbed - anything that is checked or restrained
imperious - domineering, overbearing, urgent
formidable - arousing dread or awe
augmented - to increase or make more
futurity - a future event or possibility
enunciate - to pronounce clearly; articulate
consecrate - to make sacred
emaciated - extremely thin (usually by starvation or illness)
vivacity - liveliness, spirited
tangible - real, concrete
artifice - ingenuity, subtle deception
nuptial - marriage or wedding ceremony

Chapters XXIII and XXIV

adversary - opponent, enemy
reconciled - to reestablish friendship or love
invective - an abusive speech; violent attack with words
incredulity - disbeliefing, skeptical
physiognomy - facial features that reveal characteristics
propound - to adjust so that there are proper relations between parts
martyr - one who sacrifices, suffers, or dies for principles
abjuration - giving up
extricate - to release from entanglement or difficulty; disengage
invoked - to call upon a higher power for aid
bedim - to make less bright
repose - to rest
enjoined - commanded; prohibited
instigated - urged on
impassive - revealing no emotion, expressionless
ecstasy - condition of great joy, rapture
gibe - to taunt; to make mocking remarks
sentiment - an opinion based on emotions not fact
retribution - punishment; something demanded in payment; vengeance; requital for some wrong that has been done
protraction - prolonging
disencumbered - to relieve or free from hindrance
appalling - causing horror, terrifying
congeal - to solidify
imprecations - curses
posterity - generations of the future
illustrious - celebrated; famous
infantile - babyish, childish
eradicated - to destroy totally; to erase
fraught - attended; accompanied
imminent - about to occur
deputation - a group appointed to represent others
immune - to imprison
modulate - to regulate; to vary the frequency of
languor - spiritlessness, sluggishness
renounce - give up formally
irradiation - illuminations, brightness
purport - to claim or profess the main idea
opprobrium - disgrace arising from shameful conduct
contumely - insulting treatment
execrable - to denounce, to abhor
irremediable - incurable, impossible to remedy
consummate - to complete, to fulfill
rankle - to cause irritation
conflagration - a big and destructive fire