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San Bernardino County
Superintendent of Schools
Transforming lives through education



Thursday, May 14

1:00pm

Frankenstein: Theater of the Mind
4th – 8th grade

It's radio you can see, complete with actors, music and a crew of sound effects technicians, creating it all right before your eyes. Frankenstein! Upon graduating from the university, and with the help of a friend, Victor Frankenstein set out to create life--using corpses stolen from graveyards. During a raging storm, he is successful but, too late, realizes he has created a misshapen, inarticulate horror. And so begins a tale of creature vs. creator in KTWU's fifth televised 1940's style radio drama from ARTS, Inc., and playwright, Phil Grecian.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- In less than 5 sentences, state the key message for the TV show?
- Cite evidence from this episode that demonstrates features/characteristics of the main characters.
- Where in the video is there foreshadowing?
- What did you learn after watching this program?
- Summarize the tale of Frankenstein.
- How is Frankenstein created?
- Describe the monster that is created in the lab. What does it look like physically? Does it have a personality? If so, describe it.
- Consider the mood of this tale. Does it change as the story progresses? If so, how does it change?
- How does the author's word choice as well as the actor's performance of the story affect the mood?

Question Box 2

- What did you find most interesting and why?
- How much did you know about the subject before we started?
- How do you feel about this program? Why?
- What parts of it do you particularly like? Dislike? Why?
- What did/do you enjoy about this program?
- How do the sound effects and music create a mood or tone for this program?
- In this tale, life is created out of corpses. What are your thoughts about this? Do you think it was right or wrong for Victor Frankenstein to do this in his lab? Why or why not?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- Use the digital plot diagram [here](#) to identify how the plot progresses through the story/performance.
- Draw an illustration of the monster based on what you think it might have looked like. Use your imagination and remember you don't have to stick to the usual Frankenstein image!

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- The famous gothic science fiction novel, Frankenstein, is also known as "The Modern Prometheus". Research the myth of Prometheus and why his story is important to Mary Shelley's characterization of Victor Frankenstein. <https://www.greeka.com/greece-myths/prometheus/>

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- While Frankenstein is a work of fiction, the ideas that are generated from the concept of creating life can be seen in many modern day activities. For example, stem cell research, cloning animals, and artificial intelligence. With parent permission, watch this short video on artificial intelligence <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MH1NFY6YfM>
- Should doctors, scientists be allowed to conduct any experiments they want to? Why or why not?
- Just because you can do something, should you do it why or why not?
- Ethics are the moral principles that guide a person's behavior or conducting activities.
 - List behaviors and activities that you feel are not ok.
 - Why do you feel that the behaviors and activities you listed are not ok?
 - Where did you develop or learn those beliefs?
 - Do you think everyone should feel the same way you do about these activities? Why or why not?
 - Discuss your answers with a family member. (ELD)