***Frankenstein***

**Open Questions**

**Theme and Conflict: Ethics and Morals**

1. Morally ambiguous characters—characters whose behavior discourages readers from identifying them as purely evil or purely good—are the heart of many works of literature. Choose a novel or play in which a morally ambiguous character plays a pivotal role. Then write an essay in which you explain how the character can be viewed as morally ambiguous and why his or her moral ambiguity is significant to the work as a whole. Avoid mere plot summery.
2. Choose a character from a work of recognized literary merit and write an essay in which you (a) briefly describe the standards of the fictional society in which the character exists and (b) show how the character is affected by and responds to those standards. In your essay, do not merely summarize the plot.
3. Choose a work of literature written before 1900. Write an essay in which you present arguments for and against the work’s relevance for a person in our time. Your own position should emerge in the course of your essay.
4. A recurring theme in literature is “the classic was between a passion and a responsibility.” For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty. Choose a literary work in which a character confronts the demands of a private passion that conflicts with his or her responsibilities. In a well-written essay, show clearly the nature of the conflict, its effects upon the character, and its significance to the work.
5. Choose a novel or play that depicts a conflict between a parent (or a parental figure) and a son or daughter. Write an essay in which you analyze the sources of the conflict and explain how the conflict contributes to the meaning of the work. Avoid plot summary.

*NOTE: These questions are adapted and borrowed from the College Board’s released open questions for the AP Examination in Literature.*