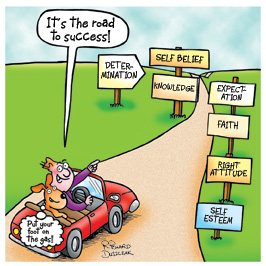
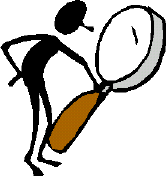
**The Road from C (+) to A** 

**You have worked hard** so far in doing exactly what I had asked:

Researching information about Monsters … Yet …

**Your task needs to be professional enough to be published** on the course record

* **In Focus**

Task Title:

**The Monster and the Monstrous in Literature**

To explore such a theme we have to study five works of literature covering a wide time span in order to get a thorough understanding of the theme. **All five works have a monster; they are our Primary Sources**

**Frankenstein**

**By** Mary Shelly

London in 1818

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde** Author Setting (time and Place)

**Dracula**

Author

Setting (time and Place)

**The Odyssey**

Author:

Setting (time and Place)

**Beowulf**

Author:

Setting (time and Place)

You get information from both primary sources and secondary sources to learn about the theme.

**Summary of *Frankenstein***

**Captain Walton's introductory frame narrative**

*Frankenstein* begins with the Captain of a ship (Captain Walton) exploring the North Pole that gets trapped in ice. One day the crew sees a dog sledge in the distance on which there is the figure of a giant man. Hours later, the crew finds a frozen man whom they save and learn to be Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein tells them he has been chasing the gigantic man previously spotted by the Captain and the ship crew. Frankenstein recovers and recounts the story of his life’s miseries. Before he begins, he warns the Captain of the dangerous effects of allowing ambition to push one to destruction. By telling the story, Dr. Frankenstein finally finds peace within himself.

**Victor Frankenstein's narrative**

Victor begins by telling of his childhood. Born into a wealthy family in Geneva, he is encouraged to seek a greater understanding of the world around him through science. He grows up in a safe environment, surrounded by loving family and friends. When he is around five years old, his parents adopt *Elizabeth Lavenza*, an orphan whose mother has just died. Victor has a possessive infatuation with Elizabeth. He has two younger brothers: *Ernest* and *William*, the latter seventeen years younger than he. Ernest however, was six years younger than Victor.

As a young boy, Victor is obsessed with studying outdated theories of science that focus on achieving natural wonders, at times to his father's disdain. He plans to attend university in Germany. A week before his planned departure, his mother dies, after nursing his beloved Elizabeth, who has been ill. The whole family is aggrieved, and Frankenstein sees the mother's death as his life's first misfortune. At university, he excels at chemistry and other sciences, and, after studying galvanism a phenomenon discovered in the 1790s, develops a secret technique to imbue inanimate bodies with life.

While the exact details of the monster's construction are left ambiguous, Victor explains "I collected bones from charnel-houses and disturbed, with profane fingers, the tremendous secrets of the human frame." Another statement, "The dissecting-room and the slaughter-house furnished many of my materials", suggests that some elements of Frankenstein's creation may not be from human bodies. Frankenstein finds himself forced to make the creature much larger than a normal man — he estimates it to be about eight feet tall — because of the difficulty in replicating the minute parts of the human body. His creation, which he has hoped would be beautiful, is instead hideous to his eyes, with dull yellow eyes, and a withered, translucent, yellowish skin that barely conceals the muscular system and blood vessels. After bringing his creation to life, Victor is repulsed by his work: "I had desired it with an ardor that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart." Victor flees, hoping to forget what he has created, and attempts to live a normal life. His abandonment leaves the monster confused, angry, and afraid.

After his quiet, secretive and exhausting efforts to create a living human being, Victor becomes ill. It takes him four months to recover from his illness. He determines that he should return home when his five-year-old brother, William, is found murdered. Elizabeth blames herself for William's death because she has allowed him to have access to his mother's locket, which she believes has caused a thief to murder William and steal the locket. William's nanny, *Justine*, is hanged for the murder based on the discovery of Victor's mother's locket in her pocket, and due to her confessing, though she regrets it. The locket was placed there by Victor's creation (the monster).

When Victor learns of his brother's death, he returns to Geneva to be with his family. He sees the monster in the woods where his brother has been murdered, and becomes certain that his monster is the killer. Ravaged by his grief and self-reproach to have created the being that has caused so much destruction, he retreats into the mountains to find peace. After some time in solitude, the monster approaches him. Initially furious and intent on killing the creature, Victor attempts to attack it.

The monster, far larger and more agile than its creator, eludes him and allows him to compose himself. Intelligent and articulate, it tells Victor of its encounters with people, and how it had become afraid of them and spent a year living near a cottage, observing the *De Lacey* family living there.

Through observing the De Lacey family, the monster has become educated and self-aware. It has also discovered a lost satchel of books and learned to read. Seeing its reflection in a pool, it has realized that its physical appearance is hideous compared to the humans it watches. The monster compares itself to Lucifer from Paradise Lost, one of the books it has read. In its loneliness, it has sought to befriend the De Laceys. It has presented itself first to the aged father of the family, who is blind and cannot see its deformity, and has been received with kindness and hospitality. Unfortunately, the others of the family have been horrified by its appearance and reacted viciously out of fear, with violence against it. Because of this interaction, the De Laceys fled their home.

In its travels some time later, the monster has seen a young girl tumble into a stream and rescued her from drowning. A man, seeing it with the child in its arms, has pursued it and fired a gun, wounding it. The monster has now sworn to have vengeance on all humanity, and especially on its creator.

The monster, traveling to Geneva, has met a little boy — Victor's brother William — in the woods outside the town. It has hoped that the child would be a companion for it, because he has appeared to be potentially unaffected by older people's perception of its hideousness, and planned to abduct him: "Boy, you will never see your father again; you must come with me." Horrified, the boy has shouted insults and revealed himself as a Frankenstein: "Hideous monster! let me go. My papa is a syndic - - he is M. Frankenstein - he will punish you. You dare not keep me." The creature has grabbed the boy by the throat to silence him. When it has discovered that it has accidentally strangled its victim, it has taken this as its first act of vengeance against its creator. It has removed a locket from the boy's body and placed it in the folds of the dress of a young woman — William's nanny, Justine — who has been sleeping in a barn nearby, assuming she would be accused of the murder.

The monster concludes its story with a demand that Frankenstein create for it a female companion like itself, on the basis that it is lonely since nobody will accept it. It argues that as a living thing, it has a right to happiness and that Victor, as its creator, has a duty to obey it. It promises that if Victor grants its request, it and its mate will vanish into the wilderness of South America uninhabited by man, never to reappear. Victor at first refuses, but the monster replies with the chilling demand, "You are my creator, but I am your master. Obey!"

Fearing for his family, Victor reluctantly agrees and travels to England to do his work. Through his travels, Victor suspects that the monster is following him. Working on a second being, he is plagued by premonitions of what his work might wreak, particularly as creating a mate for the creature might lead to an entire race of monsters that could plague mankind for millennia to come. He destroys the unfinished example after he sees the monster looking through the window. The monster witnesses this and, confronting Victor, vows that it will have its revenge on Victor's upcoming wedding night. Victor sails far out to sea to dispose of the parts of the unfinished example, and remains adrift and alone. Meanwhile, the monster murders Victor’s best friend and leaves the corpse on an Irish beach, coincidentally near where Victor finds himself washed up after an unintentionally long voyage. Arriving in Ireland, Victor is imprisoned for the murder of his friend, and becomes seriously ill, suffering another mental breakdown in prison. After being acquitted, and with his health renewed, he returns home with his father.

Once home, Victor marries his cousin Elizabeth and prepares for a fight to the death with the monster. Wrongly believing the monster's vowed revenge meant his own death, he asks Elizabeth to retire to her room for the night while he goes looking for the fiend. He searches the house and grounds, but doesn't find it. The enemy murders the secluded Elizabeth — as Victor has destroyed its mate — instead. Victor sees the monster at the window pointing at the corpse. Grief-stricken by the deaths of William, Justine, his best friend, and now Elizabeth, Victor's father dies. Victor vows to pursue the monster until one of them annihilates the other. After months of pursuit, the two end up in the Arctic Circle, near the North Pole.

**Captain Walton's concluding frame narrative**

At the end of Victor's narrative, Captain Walton resumes the telling of the story. A few days after the vanishing of the creature, the ship becomes entombed in ice and Walton's crew insists on returning south onc they are freed. In spite of a passionate speech from Frankenstein, encouraging the crew to push further north, Walton realizes that he must relent to his men's demands and agrees to head for home. Frankenstein dies shortly thereafter, and Walton discovers the monster on his ship, mourning over Frankenstein's body. Walton hears the monster's adamant justification for its vengeance as well as expressions of remorse. Frankenstein's death has not brought it peace. Rather, its crimes have increased its misery and alienation; it has found only its own emotional ruin in the destruction of its creator. It vows to exterminate itself on its own funeral pyre so that no others will ever know of its existence. Walton watches as it drifts away on an ice raft that is soon lost in darkness.

The monster in this story is created by the protagonist. It is the result of his experiments which he had gone through despite other people’s warnings. However, soon the scientist realizes his mistake and abandons his creation thinking that he can just forget about him. Here the evil is man’s own doing and once it is done it will come back to haunt him and hurt the ones he loves the most. The monster ruins its creator and eventually causes his death. It is only thus that the monster itself is destroyed.

Please add your own input about your story/monster and return back to me by Sunday

**Summary of *Beowulf* (Bashaer)**

**Summary of *The Odyssey (*Mounira)**

**Summary of *Dracula* (Sara)**

**Summary of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (*Dareen)**