

Frankenstein

Dr Kathryn Harkup



A beginners
guide to
building a
monster

Frankenstein

The shocking science behind the story

An alternative look at Mary Shelley's classic novel. Was Shelley really inspired by a dark and stormy night telling ghost stories or is there more to the tale of a man who created a monster? Many 18th and 19th century scientists and charlatons were exploring the properties of electricity and much of their work would have been known to Shelley. Is there some science fact in amongst the fiction of the monster?



The Talk

30 to 60 minutes to any number of people

Mary Shelley's novel gives intriguing hints about how Victor Frankenstein created his monster but is any of it based in fact? Shelley was writing at a time when significant advances were being made into the understanding of electricity and physiology. This talk traces the line from these early, often gruesome, experiments through to modern life saving medical technologies such as defibrillators and organ transplant. Could Frankenstein really have achieved his goal 200 years ago? Are we any closer to the realities of making a monster today?



Curriculum Links

Suitable for Key Stages 3 and 4 and Sixth Form students

This talk relates to science curriculum topics on biology - nervous system, decay processes; chemistry - electrochemistry; physics - electricity, circuits and batteries.



Contact

Dr Kathryn Harkup
Science Communicator, Chemist and part-time Resurrectionist
kathryn@harkup.co.uk
www.harkup.co.uk
@RotwangsRobot