

# Reading Comprehension - literary excerpts



Name:

Date:

**Read the text and complete the tasks.**

## **Frankenstein by Mary Shelley**

"From that moment I declared everlasting war against the species, and more than all, against him who had formed me and sent me forth to this insupportable misery. The sun is yet high in the heavens; I had time to execute my plan; my limbs were light, and my spirits were high with the expectation of this gratification. My sensations had by this time become distinct, and my mind received every day additional ideas. My first resolution was to quit the place that I had hitherto inhabited, but to journey towards the perpetual ice of the north, that I might there find the most northern extremity of the globe. I determined to go without money, and without any possession but a few clothes, and to pass through many countries, and among many people, before I allowed myself to rest. This plan was fixed, and I adhered to it with a devouring ardour.

My first duty is to avenge my father, to pursue the being who caused this misery until he or I shall perish in mortal conflict. For this purpose I will dwell in the wilderness, and I will devote myself, either in my life or death, to his destruction. I seemed to have lost all soul or sensation but for this one pursuit. It was indeed a species of madness, but it was a madness that allowed me to devise the most cunning and the most terrible schemes of revenge.

I have but one resource, and I devote myself, my life, my whole being, to that one pursuit. I may die, but I will not die by the hand of man. Revenge, henceforth dearer than light or food! I may die, but first you, my tyrant and tormentor, shall curse the sun that gazes on your misery. Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful. I will watch with the wiliness of a snake, that I may sting with its venom. Man, you shall repent of the injuries you inflict.

Devote myself to your destruction with a fervour that I cannot describe. How can you, who long for the love and sympathy of man, persevere in this exile? You will not find peace. You will not find a friend to soothe your wounded feelings. You will find only despair and destruction. You will find only hatred and revenge."

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**Determine whether the given statements are true or false.**

**The character vows to destroy the being who caused his misery.**

☐ True ☐ False

**The character plans to journey towards the southern extremity of the globe.**

☐ True ☐ False

**The character decides to travel without money and with only a few clothes.**

☐ True ☐ False

**The character wishes to find peace and solace in the wilderness.**

☐ True ☐ False

**Revenge is described as dearer than light or food.**

☐ True ☐ False

**The character plans to dwell in the city to pursue his revenge.**

☐ True ☐ False

**The character expresses a fearlessness that makes him powerful.**

☐ True ☐ False

**The character believes he will find friends to soothe his wounded feelings.**

☐ True ☐ False

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**Select the correct answer from the options provided.**

**What motivates the character to declare war against the species?**

- ☐ The insupportable misery he was sent forth to   ☐ The pursuit of knowledge and wisdom  
☐ A longing for peace and tranquility   ☐ A desire for money and possessions

**Why does the character choose to journey towards the perpetual ice of the north?**

- ☐ To find the most northern extremity of the globe   ☐ To avoid human civilization  
☐ To seek warmth and comfort   ☐ To explore tropical regions

**How does the character plan to fund his journey?**

- ☐ By going without money and only a few clothes   ☐ By selling valuable possessions  
☐ By working in different countries   ☐ By carrying a large sum of money

**What is the character's primary duty according to the text?**

- ☐ To educate himself and others   ☐ To avenge his father   ☐ To find peace and tranquility  
☐ To acquire wealth and power

**What emotion drives the character's pursuit of revenge?**

- ☐ Fear of the unknown   ☐ Desperation for companionship  
☐ Desire for knowledge and wisdom   ☐ Madness that allows cunning and terrible schemes

**What does the character vow to watch with the wiliness of a snake?**

- ☐ The reactions of people around him   ☐ His own safety and well-being  
☐ The movements of his tormentor   ☐ The changes in the weather

**What does the character warn his tormentor about?**

- ☐ The curse of the sun that gazes on his misery   ☐ The absence of love and sympathy  
☐ The loss of wealth and power   ☐ The dangers of the wilderness

**What does the character believe his tormentor will find during his exile?**

- ☐ Despair and destruction   ☐ Love and companionship   ☐ Knowledge and wisdom  
☐ Peace and tranquility



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Match the items in one column to the corresponding items in another column.

Everlasting war against the species

Perpetual ice of the north

Devouring ardour

Father

Mortal conflict

Wiliness of a snake

Madness

Despair

Repent

Exile

Being barred from one's native country, typically for political or punitive reasons

Cunning and deceitful behavior

A deadly struggle or fight

The creator or the being that caused misery

A complete loss or absence of hope

The most northern extremity of the globe

A state of being mentally ill or extremely foolish behavior

A commitment to fight against humanity

Feel remorse or regret for an action

Intense enthusiasm or passion

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What is the meaning of 'declared everlasting war against the species' in the sentence 'From that moment I declared everlasting war against the species, and more than all, against him who had formed me and sent me forth to this insupportable misery'?

The meaning of 'declared everlasting war against the species' in the text is a vow to continuously fight against humanity.

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What is the meaning of 'devouring ardour' in the sentence 'This plan was fixed, and I adhered to it with a devouring ardour'?

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What is the meaning of 'mortal conflict' in the sentence 'My first duty is to avenge my father, to pursue the being who caused this misery until he or I shall perish in mortal conflict'?

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What is the meaning of 'wiliness of a snake' in the sentence 'I will watch with the wiliness of a snake, that I may sting with its venom'?

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What is the meaning of 'devote myself to your destruction' in the sentence 'Devote myself to your destruction with a fervour that I cannot describe'?

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**Answer the following questions in complete sentences, using evidence from the text.**

What does the speaker declare from the moment mentioned in the passage?

Everlasting war against the species and against him who formed him.

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What is the speaker's first resolution?

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What does the speaker devote his life to?

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What does the speaker consider dearer than light or food?

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What does the speaker warn his tormentor to beware of?

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