Assessment KS4
GCSE Reading Skills

Taken from Chapter 10 of 'Frankenstein', in the mountains of the Alps, Frankenstein meets the creature (monster) for the first time since he brought it to life and ran away. The creature begs that Frankenstein listens to his story of how he has suffered since this day.

Around noon, I reached the top of the ascent and sat on a rock overlooking the sea of ice. A mist shrouded the glacier and mountains until a breeze cleared it. I descended to the glacier, its surface uneven like stormy waves, with deep cracks. It took me nearly two hours to cross the ice field, a league wide, to the opposite mountain. I stood before a sheer rock face, with Montanvert across the glacier and Mont Blanc towering majestically above. Gazing at the scene, my sorrow lifted, replaced by a faint joy. I called out, "Wandering spirits, grant me happiness, or take me from life's pain."

Suddenly, I saw a figure moving toward me with incredible speed, leaping over ice crevices where I had tread cautiously. As he approached, I saw his stature exceeded that of a man. I was struck with horror—the figure was the creature I had created. Rage and hatred overwhelmed me, and I resolved to confront him.

"Devil!" I shouted. "Do you dare approach me? Do you not fear my vengeance? Stay so I may destroy you and undo the horrors you've caused!"

The creature replied, "I expected your hatred. All men hate the wretched, and I am the most miserable of all. Even you, my creator, detest me. You seek to destroy me, but I ask you to fulfill your duty to me. If you comply,

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I will leave humanity in peace. Refuse, and I will unleash destruction on those you love."

"Monster!" I cried. "You blame me for your existence, but your crimes make you unforgivable. Prepare to die!"

Consumed by fury, I lunged at him, but he evaded me effortlessly. "Be calm," he said. "Hear me out before condemning me. Life is dear to me, despite my suffering. I am stronger than you, yet I am your creation and will obey if you show me justice. I should have been your Adam, but you treat me as a fallen angel. I was once good, but misery has made me a fiend. Grant me happiness, and I will be virtuous again."

"Begone!" I yelled. "We are enemies, and I will not listen to you."

The creature pleaded, "You, my creator, despise me. Humanity would do the same, though I've harmed none but you. I am utterly alone. Even these glaciers and bleak mountains are kinder than mankind. Yet it is in your power to end my suffering and prevent greater harm. Listen to my story, and then judge me. Even murderers are allowed to defend themselves before condemnation. Hear me, Frankenstein, and then decide my fate."

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Q1: Read the first paragraph of the text above. List four things the writer mentions about the setting.

1……

2……

3……

4……

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Q2: How does the writer show the narrator's **feelings** of **rage** and **horror**?

The writer presents Frankenstein's horror when she describes .....

……

This can be seen in the following description **(include quotation here) '.....**

……'

The use of the word '.....' is important here because it shows ……..

……

This makes the reader think/feel that …….

……

……

Q3: Look at the whole text above.

How does the writer build tension (fear and anxiety) in the beginning and the end of the text?

Paragraph one:

The writer builds tension in the beginning of the text when she describes ……..

……

This is shown when she describes (include quotation here') ……..

……

This builds tension for the reader because ……

……

……

Paragraph two:

The writer builds tension at the end of the text when she describes ……..

……

This is shown when she describes (include quotation here') ……..

……

This builds tension for the reader because ……...

……

……