Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Opening Letters of Frankenstein**

1. Read and annotate the summaries of letters 1-3 (highlight important details, add comments and questions in the margins, etc).
2. Read letter #4 (pgs. 19-33). Create your own summary and answer the additional questions.

**Letter #1 Summary**

Frankenstein begins with a series of four letters from Robert Walton to his sister, Margaret Saville. The first letter is written on December 11 from St. Petersburg, Russia, sometime in the eighteenth century. Walton is about to set out on a journey at sea to reach the North Pole, which he considers a region of warmth, “eternal light,” and unparalleled beauty.

Walton’s purpose in venturing to the North Pole is twofold: to discover a northern passage to the countries on the other side of the world; and to determine the origin of the North Pole’s magnetism. Walton says he once hoped to become a famous poet, but failed. Yet he has kept his childhood dream of reaching the North Pole. He adds that he could have lived his life in wealth and ease, but did not. For this reason, he feels that he deserves to “accomplish some great purpose.”

Walton plans to rent a ship, hire a crew, and depart from northern Russia in June, unsure of when or if he will ever return.

**Turn Over**

*Summaries courtesy of www.litcharts.com*

**Letter #2 Summary**

In his second letter on March 28th of the following year, from Archangel, Russia, Walton describes himself as lonely. He worries that his refined upbringing has made him too sensitive for the “brutality” of life at sea.

Walton’s experience of loneliness as a terrible experience establishes the idea of the horror of isolation that is so important throughout he rest of Frankenstein.

Walton writes that his resolution to carry out his journey is “fixed as fate.” He confesses his “romantic … love for the marvellous” and his passion for the dangers of the sea, which he attributes to his fondness for Coleridge’s poem, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.”

**Letter #3 Summary**

Written on July 7th, this short letter describes Walton’s journey so far as a “triumph.” His men remain resolved and loyal, and the weather has been fine, though sheets of ice in the ocean suggest worse conditions may soon threaten. Walton closes his letter with the rhetorical question, “What can stop the determined heart and resolved will of man?”

**Letter #4**

Summary:

Define 2 unfamiliar vocab words:

1.

2.

Two questions you have:

1.

2.

Make a prediction: