**Sample Literary Circle/Discussion Prep Sheet**

**Sample Questions:**

1. Distinguish between the first man Captain Walton sees on a dogsled (sledge) and

the second man he encounters on a dogsled.

2. Frankenstein is making a comparison in the following statement: “I ardently

hope that the gratification of your wishes may not be a serpent to sting you, as

mine has been” (Shelley 31). Explain the comparison and infer its meaning.

3. Predict the events that will cause Frankenstein’s downfall.

**Sample Essential Excerpt:**

Captain Walton is speaking with the stranger, Victor Frankenstein. Victor is preparing to tell the captain his story, and the captain expresses his desire to hear the story and to help Victor improve his fate. **Victor replies: “I thank you […] for your sympathy, but it is useless; my fate is nearly fulfilled. I wait but for one event, and then I shall repose in peace. I understand your feeling […] but you are mistaken, my friend, if thus you will allow me to name you; nothing can alter my destiny; listen to my history, and you will perceive how irrevocably it is determined” (Shelley 31).** This passage is essential in developing Frankenstein’s character because it shows how he feels about fate and destiny. To him, these things cannot be altered; he has been set on a path over which he has no control. Instead of doing something about his future, he “waits” for it to occur. Frankenstein clearly does not feel like he is in charge of his own life.

**Summary of Your Group’s Discussion:**