

BrainPOP Related Reading - Frankenstein

 Immersive Reader

The full title of *Frankenstein* is *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*. What's **Prometheus** got to do with it?

According to Greek mythology, Prometheus was a **Titan** who created men in the image of the gods. Unlike the animals created by his brother Epimetheus, Prometheus' creations had no natural weapons and no fur to keep them warm.

Prometheus felt sorry for his creations, so he stole fire from Mount Olympus, where the gods lived, and gave it to the mortals. To punish Prometheus for doing this, Zeus, the king of the gods, chained him to a rock and ordered an eagle to tear out his liver every day. Ouch!

So why did Mary Shelley refer to the myth in the title of her book? Well, there are a number of possible reasons. For one thing, like Prometheus, Victor Frankenstein is a creator; and like humans, Victor's creation is both good and evil. Also, for many people, the Industrial Revolution of the late 18th and early 19th century was like Prometheus' fire—it brought great advances in science and technology, but it also brought social unrest and potential disaster.

