BrainPOP # Related Reading - Frankenstein

🔊 Immersive Reader

Although *Frankenstein* was published in 1818, **Mary Shelley** (then Mary Godwin) wrote it during 1816, which is often referred to as "The Year Without a Summer."

The weather all over the world was disrupted, probably because volcanic eruptions in Indonesia that occurred the year before. These eruptions spewed tons of ash into the atmosphere and blocked sunlight for months. New England had snowstorms in June, the Rhine flooded in Europe, red snow fell in Italy, famine caused riots in France, and pouring rains kept Mary Godwin and her friends inside during their holiday in Switzerland.

During those cold, wet days, the 19-year-old Godwin, poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (Godwin's future husband), Percy's friend and fellow poet Lord Byron, and his friend and physician, John William Polidori, had a contest to determine who could come up with the most terrifying story. Of the men, only Polidori completed a story. His work, "The Vampyre," isn't read very much today, but we owe to it a lot of popular culture's image of the vampire.

So, who won? Mary Shelley, with "Frankenstein," of course!