

The monster mash: Frankenstein is reanimated for dance, stitched together with Greek myths

Level 1: Elementary

1 Warmer

- a. What are some books you know that have been made into films, plays, or dances? Make a list. Then give your opinion about which version was better. Discuss with your classmates.

Book title	Film, play or dance?	Which version was better?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

2 Key words

- a. Write the correct words from the wordpool to complete the definitions below. Then find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

choreographer dream graphic novelist guitarist piece

- a person whose job is to make the steps in a dance and put them in a particular order

- images, events, and feelings that happen in your mind as you sleep _____
- put something together, usually with many small parts _____
- a person who writes books in the form of comics, with words and pictures on every page

- a person who plays the guitar _____

composer pattern similar structure style

- a person who writes music, especially classical music _____
- a design made from repeated lines, shapes or colours, or a particular way something happened or is done _____

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8. the features of a book, painting, building, dance etc that make it typical of a particular author, artist, time period, etc. _____
9. how the parts of something are connected together, arranged, or organised _____
10. like someone/something but not exactly the same _____

b. Complete the sentences with words from the previous activity. You might have to change the form of the word.

1. I had the strangest _____ last night!
2. The dancers watched the _____ show them the new moves.
3. The detective _____ together the mystery.
4. The _____ on that rug is made of many different circles.
5. This perfume smells _____ to that one.
6. She always dresses in a _____ perfect for the event.

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- 1 Choreographer Mark Bruce is sitting in Frome, Somerset, talking about Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, which he used for his latest work of dance-theatre.
 - 2 At first, it looks as if he was born into dance. His father is famous choreographer Christopher Bruce and his mother, Marian Bruce, is a dancer who became an artist and stage designer. Mark began to dance at age 17. More importantly for him as an artist is that his ideas come not from himself, but visit him from somewhere else – “like in a dream” – and that he must then piece them together.
 - 3 As a teenager, he was always writing and drawing and he dreamed of becoming a graphic novelist. Some of the stories he wrote at the time were used in his 2010 book of short stories, *Blackout Zones*. He has just finished writing another one, *Fury Parades*. He is also a guitarist, singer, songwriter and composer. Bruce has played in a band for many years, and he still records with the Mute Song label as well as sometimes writing music for his own choreography.
 - 4 Dance has been his love since he started his company in 1991. His past shows have some patterns. He usually choreographs in “old-school” style by creating steps and phrases himself. There’s no one else in dance quite like him, and he doesn’t look quite like anyone else.
 - 5 Which brings us to *Frankenstein*, a story that Shelley said came to her in a dream. Bruce was asked several times to make *Frankenstein* after his award-winning *Dracula* from 2013, “but I always said no because the idea of how to do it hadn’t come to me.” Then he decided to re-read Shelley’s book. “I thought: oh, this is how you do it. Then the structure of the piece made itself quite quickly.”
 - 6 *Frankenstein* will tour alongside a shorter piece called *Liberation Day*, dances set to a playlist of songs Bruce has been writing. Created at the same time, *Liberation Day*, *Fury Parades* and *Frankenstein* turned out to be similar.
- 7 As you get older,” says Bruce, “you realise: oh, this happened before, and it’s happening again.”
 - 8 “*Frankenstein* is such a strange and flawed novel, and it doesn’t quite fit together,” says Bruce. “But we keep coming back to it.”

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3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. Who is Mark Bruce?
2. What were his parents' occupations?
3. How old was Bruce when he began to dance?
4. Where does Bruce say his ideas come from?
5. What did he dream of becoming as a teenager?
6. What instrument does Bruce play?
7. Why is Bruce's style "old school"?
8. Why did Bruce say "no" to making *Frankenstein* before?
9. When was Bruce asked to adapt *Frankenstein*?
10. When did Bruce finally have the idea for *Frankenstein*?

4 Key language

a. Complete the word families in the table.

choreography choreographer designer dream a dream dance dancer

Noun (person)	Noun (thing)	Verb
1.	2.	choreograph
3.	4. design	design
dreamer	5.	6.
7.	8.	Dance
9.	creativity	create

b. Choose one noun and one verb above and write personalised sentences using them.

1. (noun) _____
2. (verb) _____

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5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- “Artists make the old new again.”
- “The original is better than the remake.”

6 In your own words

a. Do some research about books that have been made into plays, films or dances.

- What books have been made into a play, film, or dance?
- Choose one of them. Which version did you like better? Why?
- In your opinion, which is usually better, the book or the play / film / dance?

b. Report your findings to the class and share your opinions. Here are some phrases to help you when you discuss facts.

From what I read, ...

One / Some example(s) is / are ...

One article said that ...

In the book / film / dance / play, ...

Here are some phrases to use when stating your opinion.

I prefer ...

I like ... better.

From what I have seen / read, ...

I think (that) ...