Frankenstein quiz

1/ Whose name is on the final credits of director James Whale’s 1931 movie ‘Frankenstein’ as playing the part of the monster?

A: No one’s. It is given as “?”. It was in fact Boris Karloff.

2/ What figure from Classical Greek mythology features in the subtitle of Mary Shelley’s novel?

A: Prometheus.

3/ Under what pseudonym did Mary Shelley first publish ‘Frankenstein’?

A: None. The novel was first published anonymously.

4/ For what is Mary Shelley’s mother, Mary Woolstonecraft, most famous?

A: For writing ‘A Vindication of the Rights of Women’, a pioneering feminist work.

5/ What was the title of Mary Shelley’s other full length work of science fiction?

A: ‘The Last Man’.

6/ A year after Mary Shelley’s death, her children opened her desk and found locks of her children’s hair, a notebook, a copy of a poem, some ashes in silk, and what else?

A: The remains of her husband’s heart.

7/ Where and when was Mary Shelley born?

A: London. 1797.

8/ How old was Mary when her mother died?

A: 10 days.

9/ Who wrote the famous lines:

   “Rise like Lions after slumber
   In unvanquishable number,
   Shake your chains to earth like dew
   Which in sleep had fallen on you -
   Ye are many - they are few”?

A: Percy Shelley, the poet, Mary’s husband.

10/ In what year did Mary begin to write ‘Frankenstein’?
A: 1816.

11/ Where was Mary at this time?
A: At the village of Cologny, near Lake Geneva, Switzerland.

12/ With whom was Mary in a ghost story writing competition at this time?
A: Lord Byron, John William Polidori and her husband.

13/ What monster did Polidori’s story feature?
A: A vampire.

14/ How did Mary get her first idea for the plot of ‘Frankenstein’?
A: In a ‘waking dream’ when unable to sleep.

15/ Talking with Victor Frankenstein, the monster calls himself “the (what?) of your labours”?
A: “the Adam of your labours”.

16: What form is the novel written in?
A: Epistolary form.

17/ What was the 1822 stage adaptation of the novel entitled?
A: ‘Presumption’.

18/ What famous poem by Samuel Taylor Coleridge is believed to have influenced Mary when writing ‘Frankenstein’?

19/ Who described the novel as “a Shakespearean tragedy”?
A: Contemporary US horror writer Stephen King.

20/ Who met Frankenstein on screen in 1948?
A: Abbot and Costello.

21/ Where are Mary’s original manuscripts of ‘Frankenstein’?
A: The Bodleian Library in Oxford (UK).

22/ Who first edited Mary’s novel?
A: Her husband, Percy.

23/ What is the name of the seafarer whose letters open and close the novel?
A: Robert Walton.

24/ Why does the monster strangle Victor Frankenstein’s brother?
A: To punish Victor for abandoning him (the monster).

25/ What is the name of the professor who dismisses Victor’s study of the alchemists as a waste of time?
A: Kempe.

26/ In James Whale’s 1931 ‘Frankenstein’ movie, who plays the part of Igor?
A: No one. Victor Frankenstein’s assistant was named ‘Fritz’ in this movie.

27/ Where did Sherlock meet Frankenstein in 2011?
A: On the stage of the National Theatre in London where Benedict Cumberbatch, who plays the title role of BBC TV’s ‘Sherlock’ (2010 and ongoing), was acting in a stage adaptation by playwright Nick Dear of Mary Shelley’s novel.

28/ Who directed this Nick Dear adaptation (clue: he also directed the film ‘28 Days Later’)?
A: Danny Boyle.

29: Why is the monster partly sad after his destruction of Victor?
A: Victor, his creator, was the only companion he had.

30/ What is usually described as the first gothic novel?

31: Who directed the 1994 movie ‘Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein’?
A: Kenneth Branagh.

32: What movie of 1992 did the title imitate?
A: Francis Ford Coppola’s ‘Bram Stoker’s Dracula’.

33: Who played the monster in the 1992 movie?
A: Robert De Niro.
34: What is a charnel house?
A: A building where bones or other human remains are stored.

35: In what country is Mont Blanc?
A: France.

36: Where is Pandemonium?
A: It is the capital of Hell according to John Milton’s ‘Paradise Lost’.

37: What role does Justine play in the Frankenstein household?
A: Housekeeper.

38: How did Percy, Mary’s husband, die?
A: He drowned.

39: Who might have influenced the portrayal of Victor Frankenstein as a man destroyed by only thinking of himself rather than the consequences of his achievements?
A: Mary’s father William Godwin, a radical thinker who held that individuals should act for the good of all.

40: To what character from John Milton’s ‘Paradise Lost’ does the monster compare himself?
A: Satan.

41: What fictional connection does the effects-heavy 2013 trash monster movie ‘Frankenstein’s Army’ have to Mary Shelley’s original?
A: The movie’s monsters have been created by Victor Frankenstein’s grandson.

42: Of what is the 1975 Turkish film ‘Sevimli Frankestayn’ a remake?

43: What 1964-6 CBS TV show featured Fred Gwynne as a character similar in appearance to the 1931 movie monster?
A: ‘The Munsters’.

44: Why was the Edgar Winter Group’s 1973 instrumental number ‘Frankenstein’ so named?
A: Because it was stitched together from a number of different takes in the recording studio.

45/ What famous American horror writer has re-imagined the ‘Frankenstein’ story in modern day New Orleans?
A: Dean Koontz.

46/ How was Elsa Lanchester related to Mary Shelley’s monster?
A: She played his bride in the Universal Pictures movie ‘Bride of Frankenstein’ (1935).

47/ What other character did Elsa Lanchester play in that movie?
A: Mary Shelley.

A: Hammer.

49: Who plays Victor Frankenstein in this film?
A: Peter Cushing.

50/ When was the first full length academic biography of Mary Shelley published?
A: 1989. ‘Mary Shelley: Romance and Reality’ by Emily Sunstein.