

- ② Lisez le document 2 plusieurs fois avant de lire les notes prises par un(e) élève dans le tableau qui suit.

DOCUMENT 2 **Man as God: 'Frankenstein' Turns 200.**

As humans, it is our curse and our blessing to be aware of our own mortality – and to suffer with the loss of our close ones – and, in a broader sense, with the predicament¹ of others.

In 1818, Mary Shelley published the first edition of *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus*, a novel that has captured our collective imagination like few others in history.

(...)

Fast-forward 200 years, and the cutting-edge² science of our time is now a combination of electricity, digital technology, and genetics. Much has changed since Galvani and Volta – but not the hope of so many to use science to go beyond death, acquiring some sort of immortality by transcending the weakness of the flesh³. Transhumanists firmly believe that science will be able to do this, and fairly soon. Possibly, through genetic manipulation and the cloning of oneself, or through a “brain dump⁴”, the transfer of your very own neuronal code into machines capable of storing it and of reigniting the synaptic connections so that you can become “pure spirit” so to speak, a digital disembodied creature, transferable from machine to machine like a piece of software: a modern version of the Resurrection. (...)

As of now, there are gigantic scientific roadblocks to any of these pursuits.

This is a very good thing. Mary Shelley cautioned us of the dangers of extending science into realms⁵ where we have little control of the outcomes⁶. (...)

Scientific research is irreversible; once a new idea is out, it cannot go back into the bottle. It will be pursued somewhere by some individual or group with dubious moral values.

Perhaps Frankenstein's 200th anniversary should be celebrated with a worldwide effort to build safeguards so that scientific research that attempts to create new life, or to modify existing life in fundamental ways, gets regulated and controlled. (...)

Marcello Gleiser, npr.org, January 10th, 2018

1. predicament (n.) = condition –
2. cutting-edge (exp.) = very modern –
3. flesh (n): *chair*
4. brain dump (exp.) = transfer of the information from your brain to a computer. –
5. realm (n.) = area –
6. routcome (n.) = result