

- 4 Lisez le document 3 plusieurs fois avant de lire les notes prises par un(e) élève dans le tableau qui suit.

**DOCUMENT 3** One of the phenomena which had peculiarly attracted my attention was the structure of the human frame, and, indeed, any animal endued<sup>1</sup> with life. Whence<sup>2</sup>, I often asked myself, how did the principle of life proceed? It was a bold question, and one which has ever been considered as a mystery; yet with how many things are we upon the brink<sup>3</sup> of becoming acquainted, if cowardice or carelessness did not restrain our inquiries. (...)

After days and nights of incredible labour and fatigue, I succeeded in discovering the cause of generation and life; nay, more, I became myself capable of bestowing<sup>4</sup> animation upon lifeless matter. (...)

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the panes<sup>5</sup>, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch<sup>6</sup> whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured<sup>7</sup> to form? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! (...)

The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature. I had worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of infusing life into an inanimate body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart.

**Mary Wollestonecraft Shelley,**  
*Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus, 1818*

1. endue (v.): doter
2. whence (adv.) = from where
3. upon the brink (exp.) = on the point of
4. bestow (v.) = give
5. pane (n.): vitre
6. wretch (n.) = miserable creature
7. endeavour (v.) = try