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**“FRANKENSTEIN” SELECTED FOR COUNTY-WIDE READING PROGRAM IN MARCH**

**HUNTSVILLE (Feb. 21, 2018)** - For 12 years, the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) has been bringing the community together and sparking conversations through its program, Madison County Reads. Madison County Reads is a community-wide reading initiative held every March and is complemented with themed programs and activities.

The program encourages all residents of Madison County to read the same book. The library aims to foster community engagement by inviting people of diverse ages, backgrounds and viewpoints for discussion.

By true coincidence, Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein” was published the same year that the HMCPL was formed in 1818. In celebration of both the book and the library’s bicentennials, the Madison County Reads committee selected “Frankenstein” as the book choice.

“Mary Shelley’s novel was the perfect choice for 2018, as we are both celebrating 200 years,” said Suzanne Flynn, the Madison County Reads chairperson. “More than just a musty old classic, this novel features a monster that speaks to the shared humanity in all of us.”

The classic novel is centered on Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a grotesque but sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Because the novel is an influence on literature, it is available to read for free by checking out copies in the HMCPL library (as well as through Project Gutenberg ([https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page)))

The kickoff event will be held on **March 3 at 1:00 p.m. at the new Madison Library**. The event will feature a screening of the movie “Frankenstein” in the auditorium.

For complete information, please visit [www.hmcpl.org/madisoncountyreads](http://www.hmcpl.org/madisoncountyreads)

**About Huntsville-Madison County Public Library**

This is the public's library. Huntsville-Madison County Public Library (HMCPL) is a nonprofit 13-branch system that serves all of Madison County, Ala. For 200 years, the library has been dedicated to enriching the educational, recreational and cultural lives of communities in Madison County through materials, information and programs that foster a lifelong love of learning. In addition to the collection of over 500,000 items, HMCPL also provides outreach services, a BookMobile and BookBike, online services, training, an extensive digital collection, public-use computers, free Wi-fi, meeting spaces and much more. For more information about HMCPL and its services, please visit [hmcpl.org](http://hmcpl.org).

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