

80 lines of poetry, one for each display. The poem reads from left to right down the page, with a midline “caesura”. But you can also read the column on left as the creature and the column on the right as Frankenstein. So they are two (people) but also one (person).

*Fiona Sampson*  
Two into One

he wakes alone  
to night noises  
his heart pistoning  
a live thing  
not yet separate from the dark  
it soothes his nakedness  
permitting everything  
he listens not knowing he listens  
an answering rustle  
he doesn't want to be alone  
as night listens back to him  
in the cauldron of his mind  
wrestling the dark  
he wants to see  
if sight is the light of the mind  
it stings his shy pupil  
but what can he make out  
only a little  
a little more  
like a dream

plunge then  
into the vast dark  
where you can imagine yourself  
the first man  
where you are unknown  
and only you can understand yourself  
though you also don't  
you want a neighbour a friend family  
the old human dream  
of companionship  
at least some other to see yourself by  
who am I?  
no answer comes  
or silence is the answer  
the sleep of being zero  
till a tintinnabulation like sheep-bells  
wakes him  
dawn reveals a man  
he cannot meet

a man alone in the lab  
breath roaring like a machine  
life bumps in his chest  
in darkness  
that dresses him like skin  
with the uniform of authority  
at least in daylight  
is anyone there?  
a man alone with his fear  
wants to be alone  
but something's changing  
he stares  
trying to understand  
if knowledge is power  
and light is the mind's salt  
his iris winces and flickers  
understanding  
and not understanding  
the clockwork universe  
of knowledge  
throw yourself upward  
into the unknown  
a pioneer  
unafraid  
but soon to be famous  
which is what you want  
you want to be known  
to populate the dark  
is anyone there?  
to make a companion  
asks a man alone  
and time passes  
a great null  
the soul's night –  
a trembling of test-tube racks  
snaps him to attention  
and he recognizes the other  
he can only turn away from