

# Notes on frankeinstein

Science



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

How much sympathy does the writer make the reader have for Victor Frankenstein? How does she do this? The reader often feels ambivalent towards Victor. The traits that make him a powerful and admirable figure are the same ones that lead to his ruin. His self-contradictions become more frequent as his problems get bigger. Our Initial sympathy alters radically once we meet the monster (Victor should feel more remorse for abandoning the monster: his duty to family and humanity should have led to him helping) but we should not underestimate the foulness of Williams murder.

His death is tragic and he dies hoping that another man may succeed where he has failed. Shelley uses irony to help the reader take a critical attitude by using twists in the tale so that Victor's responses develop him into a complex and realistic figure. 2. Examine the differences between the male and female characters. What does this tell us about the context? The women are portrayed as virtuous; Caroline Frankenstein's kindness towards the poor, her adoption of Elizabeth, the orphans Elizabeth, Justine and Margaret act as surrogate mothers, Clerval and Sane show gentleness and kindness towards DeLacey and Felix.

The fathers unlike the mothers, fail in their parental role. The fathers of Clerval, Walton and Frankenstein try to stop their children pursuing their interests. Frankenstein's tyrannical behavior mirrors Victor's attitude to the monster. Women's roles at the time were entirely domestic, with assertive behavior seen as 'unfeminine'. Men had control over women both morally and legally but women were believed to have a duty to bring the finer virtues to a man's life particularly through marriage. Trenchard and Godwin seen in their dialogue, reflecting their beliefs and attitude. Put into supporting roles (as was the

reality of their situation) Women's role in creating life is diminished. 3. Trace the development of the relationship between the monster and Frankincense briefly. Does this help direct the reader's emotions towards each? The monster is made from many people's parts. 4. How does Shelley use locations and weather to enhance our understanding of the novel? There are indoor and outdoor settings.

Indoor settings are symbols of mental as well as physical imprisonment. Most outdoor scenes are barren, wild, or desolate. They often symbolize the separation of a character from his fellow beings. Journeys form a pattern. The monster keeps returning to meet Frankincense, a haunting feeling. Victor travels away from his family and returns with new pressures. 5. In what ways is Frankincense a book of emotions and the imagination? Imagination is the living power and the primary agent of all human perception.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The Romantics believed that art should have themes of great magnitude which could arouse emotional exhilaration in the audience. Frankincense belongs to 1 OFF stormy and dark settings, satanic imagery and themes of revenge and pursuit. 6. How reliable is Frankincense as a storyteller? Is he biased (duh! ) Victor feels himself to be a victim yet partially aware that his 'mad scheme' is also to blame. 7. How does the way the story told, with three narrators, affect the way the reader sees the novel?

We are introduced to the characteristics, desires and values of the narrators or we see things from their perspective but we can also question their character. The Chinese box narrative allows us to go deeper into the story as

each narrative lets us know more about the different perspective, even if they are biased. This techniques has an effect on our feelings - we change our emotions towards each character as we meet each and have divided sympathies in the final section. There are contrasts and parallels in language, characters and settings. 8. How responsible is Frankincense for his own downfall?