

Frankenstein, Analyzed
By Shannon McMullen

This novel raises so many questions, of intellectual and emotional importance. In the beginning you learn of Victor and his privileged family life, how seemingly perfect his childhood and early years were. Throughout the story it comes to light that he believes himself capable of greatness in an almost delusional way. He creates the monster never thinking of any consequence, only that he can. When the creature doesn't turn out they way he wants, he loses his sanity, from working day and night, but also because his hopes and dreams come crashing down around him. When he tries to ignore and avoid the problem for which, he is responsible, his worst nightmares come true, and he begins to lose the things that are most important to him.

The life he led as a child and young adult, contributed greatly to the way things turned out for Victor. In the book Victor reflects with exquisite pleasure on his childhood, before misfortune had tainted his mind. (p.24), giving the reader the sense that Victor never before experienced any difficulty. Victor says, "No being could have passed a happier childhood than myself. My parents were possessed by the very spirit of kindness and indulgence." (p.23). It is through this type of upbringing that Victor believes himself so capable of what he is doing that he cannot possibly fail. He then begins his studies with research and material that his peers and professors believe to be nonsense; he takes great offense to this, and feels even more compelled to continue. Through time and study he grows increasingly arrogant. Forging ahead with his plan, keeping it secret, in no way considering what will happen when his work is complete. Nearly killing himself with exhaustion, he finishes the monstrosity. This creation and its appearance are the outcome of his selfishness, and intentions in creating it. "Even though Victor is knowledgeable enough to create life he is still bound by his imperfections."(Villareal, Arlene p.1), Victor believes himself to be perfect, so why shouldn't his creation also be perfect? The author uses the repulsiveness of the monster to reflect the ignorance and arrogance of the creator.

When the creature is brought to life it is so frightening to Victor that he says he was, "unable to endure the aspect of the being which I had created". (p.42), He abandons the thing and sinks into a deep depression and then, upon recovering from his mental and physical conditions, tries to ignore that it exists. His efforts to pretend that the monster has disappeared are answered with the murder of his brother and the sight of the monster near his home. The murder is the result of Victor ignoring and unleashing the monster on the world, "The monster is greeted with disgust and violence even though it comes with friendly intention. Subsequently it is forced into alienation in order to survive, and it becomes the savage that man kind believes it is."(Brannstrom, Carina, p.23). Had the creature been treated with kindness and guided to belong, his outward appearance may have been overlooked. He may have proved useful to society teaching people to look beyond the outside appearance and look within. The author shows us this when she develops the character of the monster. When he learns to speak and sees what it is like to belong, by watching the family in the cottage, but he is never offered the opportunity to be a part of any relationship or to know any kindness for himself. This kind of existence could make anyone a monster, to watch as others accept and offer love with great delight, only to be deprived of such things for oneself. The thing then tries to reach out to the only person he thinks may be able to get passed his deformities, the blind man, and is once again violently rejected. Even after all of this the monster strives to be happy by asking Victor to make another like him so that he won't have to spend his life alone. When Victor agrees, but does not follow through the creature vows revenge on his creator. The monster is continually rejected and cast out, resulting in his murderous behavior.

After the murder of his wife, Victor also vows to rid the world of the result his hideous work. Both of them spend what is left of their lives seeking to end the others violently. In the end neither is able to carryout the revenge they so vigorously sought. The monster did murder Frankenstein, in a much more painful and agonizing way than by knife, I believe the intention of the creature was to have Frankenstein spend his whole life pursuing him, in the cold baron north, with the knowledge that he could survive these conditions, but that Victor would eventually succumb to the environment, knowing that he would never catch him. Therefore depriving Frankenstein of any hope of happiness or normal life, just as the monster himself would never have these luxuries. Until the death of Frankenstein, the chase gave the monster a purpose to live.

While the story unfolds you find yourself wondering if the physical form of the monster even exists or if it just the manifestation of all Victor really is, like some sort of alter ego, or *Hyde* type character. By believing himself capable of such grandiose undertakings, he has really driven himself insane. In the process of fulfilling what he believes is his destiny, he can't except his failure, and hates what he has become to the point that he imagines such a horrible being, and destroys himself, through the acts of the *monster*.