

Frankenstein Themes & Issues

Dangerous Knowledge

Victor Frankenstein attempts to surpass the bounds of mortal man, and is determined to discover the secrets of this world, and ultimately capture the power of God. This attempt ends in the creation of the Creature, culminating in all those around him being destroyed, his hatred for the creature near driving him to death.

Monstrosity

The Creature is rejected by society for his appearance and height, as well as the awful way in which he was created, with mismatched body parts. He is born, not of science, but of dark magic and horrors beyond the comprehension of man. The theme of monstrosity can also be applied to the knowledge that Victor possesses, which he used to create the Creature.

Family

Frankenstein is centered around the relationships that we share with those closest to us. Watching the DeLacey family we see how perfect they are, showing what the Creature aspires for. The suffering experienced leads on from the loss of family, or not having one at all, in the case of the creature.

Alienation

The core sentiment of Frankenstein is that we are not truly born evil, however it is society that makes us evil. We see this in the creature as he is beaten by Felix DeLacey, causing him to run away and eventually burn the cottage down, sealing the family inside. In her younger years, Mary Shelley experienced alienation as her father remarried, her skin condition, and her time spent in Scotland.