

Close Reading #3: *Frankenstein*, Chapter 1

Directions: Re-read and closely annotate [these excerpts from Letter 1 and Chapters 1 and 2](#). After you read and annotate, complete the chart comparing and contrasting the two passages.

	Similarities	Differences
Characterization of the Narrator (direct/indirect)	Both Victor and Walton can be indirectly characterized as ambitious, curious people. They both pursued what they saw as secrets of the world whether they be physical passages or secrets of the soul, they were both singlemindedly in pursuit of their ambitions. Both characters also hold their family members in high esteem.	There is little to no direct characterization of Walton beyond the fact that he is trusting. Victor had some direct characterization which stated he was patient, charitable, and had self-control. Also the fact that his temper was violent and had vehement passion when it came to learning what he was interested in.
Style of the Narrator (consider POV, tone/word choice, how the narrator organizes their thoughts, characteristics of story-telling that are specific to this narrator)	Both narrators write in the style of highly romantic men. From the way they describe their goals to the way they describe their family and companions, they both narrate in a distinctive romantic style. Both of them write with a clear sense of optimism as well.	In the organization of the passage, which may be different due to different contexts sees Victor place a lot more emphasis on his family and how his relationships have affected him and leaving a little at the end to explain his passions, goals, and ambitions. Walton does the opposite, addressing his family briefly at the start and then explaining his progress on his passions and goals.
What is the function of these juxtaposed passages?		
These passages are eerily similar in tone and overall feel. They both are from men describing how they feel/felt in pursuit of their passions, and their similar feelings towards their home lives and their relatives. They both left people they know to pursue what they felt was their calling although that detail isn't specifically in both passages. These passages function as a comparison, comparing Walton, the bright-eyed amateur in pursuit of his goals, and Victor, the man who has done what Walton is trying to do and has seen what can go wrong. These juxtaposing passages set up the similarities in passion and background between both of these characters allowing for the story to build upon these themes throughout the story.		