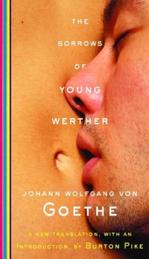
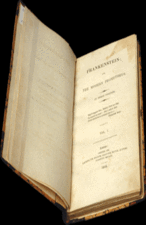
**Allusions in Frankenstein**

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In Frankenstein, Mary Shelley makes direct references to the novel The Sorrows of the Young Werther. This is done when Victor's creature finds the novel and reads it to pass the time and practice his language skills. The creature learns a lot from reading this novel, especially about emotions and feelings. This is seen when he states, **"As I read, however, I applied much personally to my own feelings and condition"** (Shelley 114). [3] When Victor first created this creature, it had no knowledge of how to speak, think, and act like other humans. The monster is extremely disappointed that he cannot interact with other humans or communicate with them because he is so different. However, throughout the novel he self-educates himself to learn how to communicate. Another human trait that the monster had to learn to be more humanlike, was feeling emotions and being able to relate to others, which was what reading the work The Sorrows of the Young Werther helped him do.  
  
**"Often... I was tempted to plunge into the silent lake"** (Shelley 81). The Sorrows of the Young Werther introduces the concept of suicide to the creature in its adolescent period, and specifically drowning onself relates to the story in Young Werther about a girl who drowns herself in the river when her lover abandons her.When the monster kills Henry Clerval, he frames the scene so that is appears as though he washed up from the water, having attempted suicide. Werther constant focus on death and his decision that he had to be the one to die to relieve Albert and Lotte is similar to and influenced Frankenstein’s creature in that he believes in the misery, only death can bring happiness. In addition, all of the deaths in The Sorrows of the Young Werther occur due to loss of companionship, which drills into the creature's mind that a suitable, loving companion contributes monumentally to one's happiness and likely contributes to the reasoning behind the creature's request for a companion. Therefore the inclusion of The Sorrows of the Young Werther contributes to the overarching theme in Frankenstein of the need for love and nurturing for survival and ultimate happiness.  
  
**"In the *Sorrows of Werter*, besides the interest of its simple and affecting story, so many opinions are canvassed, and so many lights thrown upon what had hitherto been to me obscure subjects, that I found in it a never-ending source of speculation and astonishment. The gentle and domestic manners it described, combined with lofty sentiments and feelings, which had for their object something out of self, accorded well with my experience among my protectors, and with the wants that were forever alive in my bosom"** (Shelley 114). [3] This quote from Frankenstein once again reflects how the Creature was affected by reading The Sorrows of the Young Werther. The Creature is clearly fascinated by the life that Werther lived and leads him to question his own life and the lives of those around him. His questioning manner about human society in general is once again seen because of his reactions to the characters in the book he has read. The Creatures states blatantly that events in Werther's life, as well as Werther's feelings and emotions can easily be related to those in his own life. This shows how the Creature was able to connect and learn from The Sorrows of the Young Werther. Because the Creature was able to relate to Werther so greatly, he altered his life greatly to mirror that of Werther's. This quote from Frankenstein clearly represents how the Creature compares himself to Werther and another way Shelley incorporated this novel into her own.

**“But I thought Werter himself a more divine being than I had ever beheld or imagined; his character contained no pretension but it sunk deep. The disquisitions upon death and suicide were calculated to fill me with wonder. I did not pretend to enter into the merits of the case, yet I inclined towards the opinions of the hero, whose extinction I wept, without precisely understanding it”** (Shelley 114-115). After Creature read The Sorrows of the Young Werther, he immediately felt close to Werther. To him, Werther was the greatest human he ever knew. When Creature read The Sorrows of the Young Werther, he was simulating a real human relationship. In Creature's mind, he and Werther were friends; he was able relate to Werther. Although he did not fully understand the concept of death, Creature mourned Werther’s death as he would a friend’s. He felt an implicit bond with Werther. The two shared various related traits. They both preferred the natural environment to the urban (village) life, and they were both greatly unhappy with their situation. While reading this novel, Creature gained the knowledge of what death was, and though he didn’t fully appreciate what it meant, he knew that it was a terrible thing. Moreover, reading the novel allowed Creature to connect with and express emotions as he had never known how to do before. It taught him about love and death, which were invaluable lessons for him.

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