

(1)

INTRO Frankenstein, 'The Modern Prometheus' by Mary Shelley is a gothic novel. The book is set during the 1800s and is about a man named Victor's reanimation of life. Victor's ambition is presented as a corruptive force due to the added element of isolation from friends, family, nature etc. Victor's creation, the creature's ambition is also presented as a corruptive force as the factor of revenge for Victor motivates him. In contrast Walton's ambition is not a corruptive force as it doesn't have negative implementation from other but instead positive as he has Victor to redirect him on a soon to be misguided path. Shelley, presents ambition as a corruptive force only when evil elements like isolation or revenge are involved.

P1 Through the use of Victor's ambition, Shelley conveys that isolation can be a cause for corrupt ambition. When Victor is explaining his horrific tale to Walton he describes that he spent "countless nights in... charnel houses" and that he was "forced to". This shows isolation as he was locked away in a room for hours on end away from key things like nature and friends/family. The phrase that he was "forced to" further proves this as he wasn't actually forced and experienced false sense of pressure. This is even further proven as no one else knew about his experiment which shows isolation. The key words "charnel houses" also are essential as a charnel house is where human remains are stored and full of skulls and other bones. This is important as he is isolating with dead people and is the opposite of nature and his living friends/family. Shelley Romantic views also play a part in this as she believed in the importance of embracing nature and friends and family. When Frankenstein goes against both of these it shows that his ultimate fate was already set from the start. Victor not "writing back" to his loved ones or visiting them also reinforces this as until Clerval arrives to study at the university he doesn't do or is motivated to interact with his loved ones.

2

p2

Shelley presents the creature's ambition as also corrupt but due to the evil that is revenge. The creature also known as "the wretched" also suffers from corruptive ambition due to his revenge for Victor and his

repeated rejection and response to the creature. The creature's ^{main} ambition

after turning
to Victor
for acceptance
and
accepting
that he
won't
take him in.

to get revenge for Victor comes from him "[wanting him] to create a female" version of him. Victor originally plans to do this but destroys his second creature before completion. The creature wants for a "female" of his "species" is so that he won't be lonely and rejected. The word species is important as it shows that the creature feels denied by the whole human race including his creator so he wants another one. Shelley's Romantic views also take the creature's side in this case as family is supposed to be cherished and not turned away from.

The creature like a baby, needs love and affection from those around him. Being a baby mentally shows us that when he doesn't receive those he turns to violence. The creature is originally nice as he helps the DeLacys with an "invisible hand" but due to repeated rejection feels "hated" "abandoned", "abhorred" and to be "kicked and spurned at".

The word "invisible" shows us that the creature was nervous and didn't want to be seen, this ^{harshens the} outcome for the creature.

(3)

P3

In contrast Shelley presents that ambition can also not be a corruptive force if not influenced by negative factors, this is displayed through Robert Walton. Originally Robert is on track for his ambition to become corruptive due to ^{his} overwhelming urge for glory which is shown when he announces that he wants to "be the first" to step on "land, never before" touched by another human. The key word "first" shows that he wants to be remembered. But due to Vichers intervention Walton realizes his mistake and in Vichers words should "seek tranquility" and "avoid ambition" when it takes over. This is proven when Walton, the captain of the vessel and ultimate decision maker decides to abort his voyage for "the North Pole" as it is in the best interest for his crew. This is because there was "ice around" them that looked like it "never ended" in "all directions". The unrealisticness of this situation ^{and Walton's decision} shows that Walton is not consumed by corruptive ambition.

Shelley presents ambition as a corruptive force only when other evil factors are involved. These include isolation through Vicher's ^{and} revenge through the creature. This is proven when Walton's ambition doesn't become corrupt as he doesn't have an evil external factor.