

Undoubtedly, ambition can lead to corruption. 'Frankenstein', (1818) ~~is~~ written by Mary Shelley, is a gothic novel surrounding the downfall of a scientist. The theme of ambition is continually demonstrated throughout the novel, as there is a plethora of examples of it. The distribution of said theme includes, Robert Walton's inability to recognise the dangers associated with his ambition, Victor's ~~obsession~~ <sup>obsession</sup> with discovering nature, and Victor's aim to warn Walton ~~about~~ via his experience.

Mary Shelley explored the idea that ambition can be blinding when it comes to the dangers associated. For instance, Robert is ~~is~~ unable to recognise and understand that his ambitious drive could potentially guide him to his downfall. Robert displays his ambition when saying "now gladly I would sacrifice my fortune, my existence, my every hope to the furtherance of my enterprise". By saying this, Shelley is implying that Robert's ambition is greater than him. The phrase 'now gladly' and 'sacrifice', conveys the idea that he is willing to give everything he has in order to succeed. Additionally, the repetition of 'my' followed by something that he has already acquired, demonstrates the idea that he will offer everything within him, if it meant that he would accomplish his goal. Robert also questions "what may not be expected in a country of ~~light~~ eternal light?". His question signifies that he has high expectations, which cause him to be unable to see the dangers of pursuing hazardous ambitions. The use of the phrase 'eternal<sup>3</sup> light' illustrates that he views accomplishment and ambition as the 'light' to ~~see~~ success. Robert's ambition can be seen as ~~Shelley's~~ a depiction of Shelley's character, in real life, as she had her own ambitions and targets she wished to accomplish. Ultimately, Shelley uses Robert's character to further emphasise the concept of ambitious blindness.

Mary Shelley highlights the ~~ambitious~~ <sup>ambitious</sup> drive to ~~make discoveries~~ <sup>make discoveries</sup>. For example, Victor is obsessed with discovering ~~the ways~~ <sup>the ways</sup> of nature. This is evidently displayed when he says "Curiosity, earnest research to learn the hidden laws of nature". By saying this, Shelley is demonstrating Victor's desire to discover the way the natural world ~~operated~~ <sup>operates</sup>. Shelley's decision to ~~des~~ describe nature as 'hidden' signifies that no one had discovered them before, reinforcing Victor's desires. Additionally, Victor displays his ambition ~~where~~ through the word 'learn' as it illustrates the idea that the 'hidden laws of nature' are unknown, therefore by learning them, Victor will be able to achieve his goal. Another example of this theme includes Victor's proclamation "The world was to me a secret, which I desired to divine". Within this quote, it is clear that Victor's ambition consisted of discovering the 'world' which surrounded him. Victor mentions that the world is a 'secret', highlighting that it is unknown. He also says that he 'desired' to discover it, which ultimately meant that he wants to discover said secret. Essentially, Shelley uses Victor's fascination ~~with~~ and desire to find the ways that the natural world functions, as an ~~illustration~~ illustration of how ambition can be harmful.

Mary Shelley depicts the idea that ambition is something to be warned about. For instance, Victor decides to tell Robert about his experiences in order to warn him about the potential harm it could cause him. This ~~is~~ is evidently displayed when Victor exclaims "Unhappy man! Do you share my madness? Have you drunk also from the intoxicating draught?". Victor's tone demonstrates the warning towards Robert via the phrase "Do you share my ~~mad~~ madness?" By saying that, Shelley is indicating that Victor is questioning whether or not Robert is crazy ~~and~~, just like Victor, for wanting to pursue ~~hazardous~~ hazardous ambitions. His use of the word 'also' contributes in ~~something~~ highlighting that if Robert has been persuaded and guided towards corruption too. ~~Following~~ Following, Victor continues to say 'Hear me - let me



reveal my tale, and you will dash the cup from your lips!" Victor is illustrating the idea that once Robert hears his story ~~about~~ his desire for ambition will disappear. By saying 'dash the cup from your lips' Shelley is intending to convey the idea that Robert will stop drinking from the ~~intoxicating~~ 'intoxicating draught', and will therefore stop wanting to go further than his nature will allow. This concept is a depiction of the fact that God made the world for a reason. He also made every person for a reason and each person has a purpose. By trying to change that 'purpose', Robert, alongside Victor, is ultimately rejecting God's order and plan that he has created. They are aiming to acquire control over their destiny, however the only one able to do so, is God himself. Shelley depicts the idea that warning is essential when it comes to ambition, though Victor's desire to enlighten Robert.

Ultimately, 'Frankenstein' explores the theme of ambition and its corruptive powers, and how it can result to broken dreams. The said theme is continually displayed throughout the novel and is undoubtedly evident. In a wider context, 'Frankenstein' situated in the Enlightenment era, presents ambition as the 'light' of the specific time. Mary Shelley, demonstrates the theme of ambition effectively, without difficulty.