

Frankenstein essay

"Frankenstein" is a gothic novel written by Mary Shelley, which follows the unfortunately life of Victor Frankenstein and his endeavours. Shelley portrays her views on the dangers of ambition through her characters, and showcases the corruption they endeavour because of this. Throughout this tragic novel, the audience is shown the affects of ambition through the characters of Frankenstein, Walton, and the creature.

Throughout the entirety of the novel, Shelley expresses the negative effects ambition can have on one's mental health, as it can corrupt somebody's views and values. Victor Frankenstein is shown to go clinically insane because of his endeavours, which leads to the destruction of his mental state. While studying hours on end to satisfy his ambitious tendencies, he describes that his "cheeks had gone pale" with his endless hours of study. This implies that Frankenstein was so involved in his work, he didn't feel the need to take care of himself, so he continued to waste away. He loses his sense of life, as his cheeks went 'pale', almost like a ghost. This loss of humanity described in Victor's character can be linked to Mary Shelley's own views on her world. During this time of her life, the enlightenment era was beginning and many people were working endlessly to create new objects and devices in the world, most likely out of ambition for fame. Shelley believes that this level of ambition can be deadly, which she showcases through Frankenstein's character.

Similarly to this, Frankenstein is further shown to have a loss of character or humanity as he got further in his ~~studies~~ studies, described to have "lost all soul and sensation for this one pursuit". This accentuates Frankenstein's commitment to his ~~goal~~ "pursuit" as he dedicates his entire life to this. The use of the loss of "soul" implies he has lost humanity, as a soul is something a human possesses and the loss of one leaves you emotionless and empty, as in not even human. The loss of "sensation" further highlights this, as a loss of sensation ^{or feeling in your body} would also deem one as unnatural, or unhuman. This further communicates Shelley's thoughts on the ambitious world,

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as she feels those who dedicate their lives to their ambitions lose their humanity and instead become slaves to their own mind. Shelley shows Frankenstein to ~~to lose~~ lose control of himself throughout her novel, which ultimately showcases her presentation of ambition through her story of "Frankenstein".

~~Shelley~~ While showing the negative affects of ambitious tendencies throughout the story of "Frankenstein", Shelley also portrays the idea of what might happen to an individual if they choose not to follow through with their ambitions. Her character, Robert Walton, is out trying to explore the ~~outer~~ arctic when he meets Frankenstein and chooses to cease his endeavours. ~~Shelley states~~ During one section of this novel, Frankenstein reminds Walton of the other navigators who have "attempted this sea".

The use of the word "attempted" in this passage implies that these previous ~~navigators~~ navigators with the same ambitions and goals have unsuccessfully completed their tasks, falling victims to the hardship that the arctic has to offer, proving no good to come out of this journey. Frankenstein reminds Walton of this, which leads him to make the rational decision to end his journey. This idea relates back into Mary Shelley's own life, as her own husband had been killed at sea by his ambitions. She wishes that he had made the choice ~~and~~ to come home, but instead was killed, like every other navigator in her novel. Additionally to Frankenstein's warnings, Walton also struggles with the environment in which he is attempting to explore, which also leads to him ending his ambitions and turning around. He describes his environment as if there was "no end" to the "surrounding ice". This portrays the fact that the amount of ice around them was seemingly impossible to navigate around, which effectively would add extra hardship to his travels.

While Walton was highly ambitious for this journey, the factor of weather played a part in ensuring he would not see through his endeavours. This can also be linked to Shelley's personal experiences ~~in~~ of loss in her own life, and her way of communicating the danger of ambition on an individual. Had Walton not decided to end his journey, he possibly

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could have ended up dead, or even ended with the same fate as Frankenstein. Shelley's use of this character allow her to communicate how not following ~~an~~ the mind's ambitious goals can be beneficial, and save lives.

Shelley further communicates the destruction ambitions can have on lives throughout her story through the use of victims. Ambition can not only be destructive to the individual with these goals, but also the friends and family around them. The creature, who's ambition is to ruin Frankenstein's life, ends up murdering people to achieve his goal. In one passage in the novel, the creature tells Frankenstein that he had "murdered the helpless and had killed the 'innocent as they slept'". The use of the words "innocent" and "helpless" describe the fact that the creature had taken away the lives of people because of his goal to ruin Frankenstein's life, which is completely unfair to those who ended up in the crossfire. Additionally, Shelley describes ~~these~~ that these people were "sleeping" at the time of their murder, conveying that the monster took their life while they were in a vulnerable state. This further accentuates their complete innocence, and further shows how the monster had become carried away in his plan to destroy his creator-- rather, destroyed the lives of everybody around him. This can be linked to Shelley's external thoughts on the world, as she believes that people with ~~an~~ high-aiming ambitions will ultimately destroy the lives around these people. Furthermore, throughout Shelley's novel, ~~Frankenstein~~ Frankenstein ^{begins to} understand the destruction that the monster has created on his life. He describes his friends and family "as 'hapless victims of (his) hallowed arts'". Although the creature only had issues with Frankenstein, ~~he~~ he still continued to ruin the lives of everybody else in order to achieve his ambitions ~~revenge~~ on his creator. These people in Frankenstein's life are described as "victims", as they have been ~~innocently~~ murdered as a result of the monster's anger. This further portrays the affects of ambition within this story, and Shelley utilises the creature to express the force of ambition on the people that surround somebody with ambitious tendencies.

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"Frankenstein" is ~~portra~~ written in a way to effectively portray Mary Shelley's views and values on her world. She communicates to her audience her opinions ~~of~~ on the corruptiveness of ambition in a effective way through the use of ~~the~~ Frankenstein, Walton and the creature.