The definition of humanity has long been discussed and the characters in Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein ” introduce the question: can artificial humanity become more human than humans themselves? In the book, the monster and its creator become increasingly similar in the eyed of most readers throughout the book, but which of the characters is more human by the end ofthe book? In the book, a strange doctor, Viktor Frankenstein creates a creature that he ends up calling monster. He calls his monster this to dehumanize; however, throughout the book, the monster starts shows human than his creator who was born human. Viktor goes to lengths that turn him inhuman to conceal the monster and to destroy him while the orphaned monster attempts to live his life in the best way possible. The monster is a creature who was created innocent and ugly because of this, he is treated horribly by many of the people who he encounters, so he becomes increasingly venegeful towards humanity and his creator throughout the book. Viktor, on the other hand, grew up with the perfect life imaginable, but he commits evil and loses compassion for others making him more the monster. Viktor started as more human than monster, but throughout the book, he became what he created, and it was his own humanity that leads him to become inhuman. The monster is born innocent, like any other human child, and shows through his treatment of people, his curiosity of the world, and his understanding of emotions that he is not a monster, but a person. The monster becomes more human than his creator despite having had a life hard enough to make anyone become evil because the monster shows compassion while Frankenstein turns into the true wretch.

To fully understand who is more human between Frankenstein and his creation, one must define the concept of what it means to be human. According to Merriam- Webster Dictionary, a definition of human is, “representative of or susceptible to the sympathies and frailties of human nature.” This definition encaptures the beginning of the meaning of humanity. The definition of human is made up of three different facets. To be human, one must feel human emotions, one must experience sympathy and compassion to make connections, and one must make mistakes. Feeling human emotions means feeling a spectrum of emotions from joy to grief and more complex emotions like jealousy, confusion, and guilt. To be human, one must also experience sympathy and compassion. These two things are core to humanity because without them people would have no way to relate to others and to truly interact with each other. Making mistakes is also vital to being human because people are naturally flawed and cannot be perfect. The phrase “only human” that is used so commonly in society shows that people are imperfect and humanity comes from trying to be as good as possible and sometimes failing. It is also important to define the word monster to show that Frankenstein’s creation is more human than monster. According to *Dictionary.com* the definition of a monster is “ 1. someone who excites horror by wickedness, cruelty, etc.” Today, the word monster carries a very negative undertone, and it is commonly used as a slur meant to insult people. A monster is something terrible that has intentions to create horror and chaos. Human and monster have their root differences in intention. Humans intend to do good while a monster intends to hurt.

The monster shows that he is human through his actions in the book. The first example is his interactions with the De Lacey family. He meets the De Lacey family after being rejected by all of humanity that he has come across and his creator. The De Lacey family is made up an elderly father, a brother(Felix) and sister(Agatha), and a girl named Safie. The family shows that they have been through hardship. They used to be an affluent Parisian family, but they became poor outcasts because Felix saved Safie’s father from wrongful punishment from the government. The monster shows his humanity with his interaction with the De Lacey family. He watches them and uses their actions to learn what it is to be human. He watches them love each other and starts to crave that feeling. The monster also learns other emotions from them by hearing their harsh story of rags to riches. In the beginning, the monster steals from the the familly, but he learns that they are poor and decides to stop. This shows his humanity because he has compassion and sympathy for the family. He understands that they are struggling and, since he has struggled, does not wish to hurt the family. Instead, he starts to do small chores for them in order to help them. This exemplifies the monster’s love and connection to the family which proves his humanity. The monster says,

“ But my chief delights were the sight of the flowers, the birds, and all the gay apparel of summer; when those deserted me, I turned with more attention toward the cottagers. Their happiness was not decreased by the absence of summer. They loved, and sympathized with one another; and their joys, depending on each other, were not interrupted by the casualties that took place around them. The more I saw of them, the greater became my desire to claim their protection and kindness; my heart yearned to be known and loved by these amiable creatures.”

Here, the monster is showing many complex human emotions as well as compassion. He feels love towards this family, an emotion that is complicated and only felt by humans. The way he talks about them and wants the best for them shows that he loves them which makes him human. He also feels another human and complex emotion in this passage: the want to be loved by others. This emotion further proves his humanity because the monster not only loves but, also, wishes to be loved. He understands the connections that can be made between people and feels that he is capable of being in one of those connections. He, therefore, also views himself as human. The monster also shows this part of his humanity when he says the young girl from drowning.

“I was scarcely hid when a young girl came running towards the spot where I was concealed, laughing as if she ran from someone in sport. She continued her course along the precipitous sides of the river when suddenly her foot slipped, and she fell into the rapid stream. I rushed from my hiding-place and with extreme labor, from the force of the current, saved her and dragged her to shore. She was senseless, and I endeavored by every means in my power to restore animation”

In this scene, the monster shows how much he cares about other human beings by saving this young girl. He has no other motive to save her beside his humanity and compassion for other people. The monster understands pain and does not want others to feel what he has, so he saves a young girl from dying. If the monster did not feel human sympathy, he could have easily let the girl die without any consequences for himself, but he saves her because he is human.

The monster also shows his humanity through his interactions with Frankenstein. The monster is hated by Frankenstein and this creates human emotions in the monster. The monster hates Frankenstein for making him. This requires conciseness of his own being and an understanding that he is dangerous. The monster’s vengeance towards Frankenstein for making him and abandoning him is another part of what makes him so human. Vengeance is an emotion that comes from pain. A pain that one must be human to feel. The monster took this pain and turned it into anger at his creator. He shows this when he says ”Yet you, my creator, detest and spurn me, thy creature, to whom thou art bound by ties only dissoluble by the annihilation of one of us. Your purpose to kill me.” The monster talks about how he is hated by his creator. This angers the monster and creates his vengeance. The monster’s vengeance also proves his humanity because he makes mistakes due to this emotion. Part of being human is making mistakes. The monster is blinded by human emotions and kills people. It is a horrible mistake, but it does make him less human. These mistakes make him more human. Being flawed and imperfect shows further that the monster is human and not truly a monster.

Frankenstein’s actions throughout the book show that he is less human than the monster. Frankenstein starts the book human. He has a perfect life and shows human curiosity for science. At first, it seems that he is harmless in his curiosity for science; however, this curiosity turns dangerous, and this is when Frankenstein becomes more monster than human. He shows this when he retreats to work on his monster alone. Human compassion and connection are vital to humanity, and Frankenstein loses this when he retreats away from society. He stops being able to form connections by isolating himself. This isolation also shows that Frankenstein is moving away from humanity because he stops making human mistakes. Frankenstein does not make small mistakes anymore and he is blinded to the fact that the monster will become a curse. He stops understanding that he makes mistakes; therefore, he quits understanding that he is human. Frankenstein further his lack of humanity by how he treats his creation. Frankenstein calls his creation “vile insect”, “devil”, and “daemon.” This shows his lack of humanity because he has no compassion for others. Frankenstein does not care about the monster and hates him because of the way he looks. Frankenstein’s loss of human companionship, blindness to his human mistakes, and lack of compassion for other beings show that he has become inhuman.

Throughout the book, the monster shows that he has become human through loving the De Lacey family, saving the young girl, and seeing how he has been mistaken in his vengeance. Frankenstein has become inhuman by isolating himself, losing sight of his mistakes, and having no compassion or care for the monster. The monster has become more human than his creator by the end of the novel. Mary Shelley shows that an artificial creation can be more human than a human itself. This raises questions about our society today. If humans can create life, will it be human? According to Mary Shelley’s ideas in “Frankenstein,” a human creation can become more human than its creator. This means that one day the computer that people make may be able to feel and be more human than those already living on this planet. Humanity is defined by emotion, compassion, and mistakes. Mary Shelley shows that an artificial monster can feel these things more than a human and that a human can lose them. The monster is more human than Viktor Frankenstein.