

Jotter Cheat Sheet

Title: Alienation and Social Difference: A Cheat Sheet

- Alienation:

- Feeling of isolation and detachment from others
- Experienced by individuals due to various reasons
- Explored in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and James Baldwin's Giovanni's Room

- Mary Shelley's Frankenstein:

- Most alienated character is the creature
- Shunned by Victor after gaining life
- Faces constant instances of alienation due to appearance and height
- Creature's experience with a family
- Learns to talk and read by observing family
- Reveals itself to the old blind man, who treats it as a human being
- Rest of the family is frightened, causing the creature to feel more alone

- Victor's Alienation in Frankenstein:

- Victor isolates himself during his studies, leading to his own alienation
- Falls sick and remains guilt-ridden after creating the creature
- Guilt and loss alienate him from his family
- Driven by revenge against the creature, ending in his own demise

- James Baldwin's Giovanni's Room:

- Protagonist David experiences alienation
- Feels unable to confide in anyone, including his fiancée and acquaintance
- Attracted to Giovanni, but afraid to embrace his homosexuality for societal approval
- Alienates himself from Giovanni by choosing Hella
- Hella leaves him upon discovering his sexuality, leaving David truly alone

- Tragic Endings and Lessons:

- Alienation leads to tragedy in both novels
- Shelley and Baldwin warn against suppressing one's true identity for societal norms
- Embracing and supporting each other's identities is crucial to avoid alienation

- Key Themes:

- Alienation caused by appearance, societal norms, and self-isolation
- Importance of self-acceptance and embracing one's true identity

- Support and understanding can combat alienation
- Conclusion:
- Shelley and Baldwin provide insights into the causes and effects of alienation
- Advocate for acceptance and pride in one's identity
- Strive to be supportive of others to create a more inclusive society