

Frankenstein Chapter 6-9 Notes

Directions: Study all terms, themes and answer all questions on this note-sheet. Annotate anything you find interesting and noteworthy within these notes. You will have a quiz on these notes!

Questions to consider: Answer after reading the notes

1. How does Victor abandon his own father?
2. How is Elizabeth a shell of who she used to be?
3. What is ironic about blending the comforts of Mont Blanc with the magnificence of nature?
4. What is the significance of storms within these chapters?

Themes that are relevant to the story:

Despair: Victor mourning the loss of his brother and Justine

Suicide: The Romantic notion of killing himself to end his suffering, which is ironic because he originally set out to create life, not to destroy it.

Depression: Elizabeth no longer sees the good in the world; she is despondent and distant.

Injustice: Justine is innocent and dies. Victor is guilty and lives. The monster is abandoned and alone, yet a savage: who is at fault?

Chapter 7:

Victor receives word from his father that his youngest brother, William is DEAD! He is found in the grass against the hills of their home with the murderer's fingerprints around his neck. Elizabeth had given him a locket earlier that day and the locket was missing from William's body. Elizabeth blames herself for his death. Victor resolves to return home and bring his family comfort. He has not been home for six years and upon his travels home he is in great despair. He turns to nature for comfort. He says, "I remained two days at Lausanne, in this painful state of mind. I contemplated the lake; the waters were placid; all around was changed. By degrees the calm hand heavenly restored me, and I continued my journey towards Geneva" (67).

Why does Victor contemplate water (suicide)?

Nature calms him—theme of peace and serenity.

The theme of nature is played out again in these words, "Dear Mountains! Beautiful lake! How do you welcome your wanderer? Your summits are clear; the sky and lake blue and placid. Is this to prognosticate peace, or to mock at my unhappiness?"

- Upon returning there is a violent storm
- Victor calls himself a wretch for not being home for so long
- He wants to return to his brother's site of death.
- Rain pours down with thunder and lightning to follow
- This is all set against the mountains of his home (theme of revenge)

He states, "Poor William, this is thy funeral, this is thy dirge!" Victor feels guilt for his death. Upon screaming in the rain (rain is a symbol of water—he is being cleansed of his sins) he sees the unhallowed image of his creation in the near distance.

- Victor notices how fast and agile the creature is.
- He blames him for the murder of his brother
- He realizes his creation has been on the loose for two years.

"I considered the being whom I had cast among mankind, and endowed with the will and power to effect purposes of horror, such as the deed which he had now done, nearly in the **light of my own vampire**, my own spirit let loose from the grave, and forced to destroy all that was dear to me."—is convinced of his own evil for doing this.

- Victor refuses to tell a soul of his creation.
- Upon returning home, guilt ridden and sorrowful, he finds his family forlorn and upset.
- Elizabeth is beyond frail and grieving.
- Victor finds out that the killer has been identified! He is confused, especially when it is announced that it is Justine Moritz.

*He could've revealed the truth then, but he is too concerned with his pride. He wants to appear normal and not insane for creating such a wretch!

- We know Justine is not the killer, but the only proof is through Victor's secret. He only calms his family down by trying to prove her innocence—not telling his secret.

Things to remember:

- Justine's connection to the creature—she was called a wretch herself
- Victor's connection to nature—drenched in rain, he asks for forgiveness, yet finds his creature
- Victor is losing touch with his family

Chapter 8

Summary: Justine's trial begins. Everyone in the city of Geneva believes her to be guilty except her family. Elizabeth defends her, but her words fall of deaf ears. Society is so hateful towards Justine. This reflects how society molds man's behavior. Those who once believed in Justine's character now want her dead. The family is rapidly losing the joy and happiness they once were surrounded by. Victor is too concerned with looking "mad" to admit that his creature has committed the crime of William's death.

*It is because of Victor that William and Justine are in this situation.

Eventually, Justine can no longer take the townspeople's merciless hate, so she admits to the murder, knowing full well she didn't do it. Her argument is that God knows her character and if she is to die, heaven awaits her. She also believes that by telling society what they want to hear, they will go easier on her. This decision proves fatal and Justine is executed.

- Victor is too prideful and ambitious to end his family's pain
- Victor now has caused two deaths and has put his family at great risk
- It is ironic that the creature was to preserve life, but has now caused deaths.

Focus on:

Society's cruelty can shape people's behavior
Victor's knowledge has now led him astray
Elizabeth desires death

Chapter 9

Summary: Victor's father encourages Victor and the family to move on in their grief and think of happier times. They visit their vacation home in Belrive and Victor immerses himself in nature. Upon the lake, where he spends much of his time, he contemplates suicide again. He resolves to avoid it, as that would only make his family suffer.

While the water is representative of peace, Victor begins to think of revenge as he is on the lake. He looks to the mountains and yearns to kill his creation. He states, "I would have made a pilgrimage to the highest peak of the Andes, could I, when there, have precipitated him to their base. I wished to see him again, that I might wreak the utmost extent of abhorrence on his head and avenge the deaths of William and Justine."

- The theme of revenge plays strongly in this chapter

Elizabeth begins to see the world as a cruel and ugly place. She states, "but now misery has come home, and men appear to me as monsters thirsting for each other's blood."

- This passage speaks to the novel's main theme of nature vs. nurture, that it is man's fault that we have become an ugly world.
- Elizabeth is dead inside—no longer appears joyous.

Victor, upon Elizabeth's urging, returns to nature to find peace. He decides to journey to the mountains of Chamounix. As he climbs deeper and deeper into its icy climbs, he finds himself feeling some relief, but remember ICE REPRESENTS DANGER!!!! SOMETHING BAD IS GOING TO HAPPEN!!!

- As he stands atop the icy mountain he sees lightning strike.
- Storms encircle him
- He is torn between grief, release, and revenge.

All of these elements are foreshadowing a dangerous situation.

UH-OH!!! STAY TUNED FOR CHAPTER 10!!!!