

**Summary of important points in chapters:** *The Creature is like a new born child. He has to learn everything from scratch, like how to find food, keep himself warm, and what people are like. He discovers a family in the room next to his and watches them live their life. He soon becomes very attached to the family, and after realizing that his food stealing has hurt them he stops and starts bringing them wood. He then learns how to speak by following their words and actions. This creature is constantly reminding me of the elephant man, how no one would look at him but if you had gotten to know him he was very sweet and caring of others.*

The Creature is now seeing, hearing, feeling and experiencing life. He recounts to his father the sensation of light upon him. Remember, light is the driving force of the novel; **"The light became more and more oppressive to me..." (Shelley). "Soon a gentle light stole over the heavens..."** He comments on how light can be harming and delightful.

- He then discovers fire—it warmed him, yet it burned him too. (knowledge as destructive force)
- Sensations and feelings are strengthened and light is tolerable to him now.
- Identifies his own hunger, thirst, and feeling—he can burn wood, make fire and cook food.
- He's like a barbarian discovering civilization for the first time.

The Creature attempts to seek out food in cottages in the villages he passes. Upon entering these villages, he is chased out of each hut. People scream and shout at him. People are disgusted by his appearance. He does not know what he looks like.

\*The creature compares himself to demons who receive retribution in hell.

\* He cries often, but does not identify what grief is.

\*Is an outcast and must escape man's inability to accept him.

He finds a hovel where he can sleep. It is next to a cottage, where a family lives. He notices a young man, woman and old man. He begins to observe this family—they seem sad—he cannot say why. He steals their food, but is unaware he is doing anything wrong. He sees them speak (he is not familiar with words yet). He wants to introduce himself to these people but knows that in previous encounters with humans—he was met with screams and shouts.

Things to remember:

- Light is a symbol of knowledge—he is learning a great deal and is literally getting used to the light of sun and moon.
- He is like a cave man in knowledge, but far kinder than the civilized humans he meets (irony).
- He shares all human emotion but is not human.

## Chapter 12

The Creature desires to know more about the family. They seem to have shelter and companionship, but why are they unhappy? He realizes that the old man is blind (should help the creature in the future) and also notices that the two younger members of the family surrender their food to the old man when there isn't enough. The creature learns compassion from this action. The creature decides to stop taking their food (establishes the notion of right and wrong here). He begins helping them (secretly) by gathering wood for them each day.

- Analysis: The creature is kind initially
- He has compassion for those around him

- He does not take revenge on those who outcast him
- He desires knowledge and understanding
- He seems very human

He begins learning words: the names of the cottagers (Felix, Agatha, Father), **bread, good, dearest, unhappy and friend**. He is called the *Good Spirit of the Forest* by his cottagers, but they have never seen him. He experiences joy when they do and sorrow when they are sad. He desires to meet them but realizes that he is a monster.

\*He sees his own reflection in the water and is appalled by his image.

\*He must learn to speak and be gentle mannered so he can meet the old man and keep from scaring everyone. "I did not know the fatal effects of this miserable deformity!"

The Creature becomes enlivened by nature. When spring is in full bloom he states: "My spirits were elevated by the enchanting appearance of nature; the past was blotted from my memory, the present was tranquil, and the future gilded by bright rays of hope..." He is like his father—finds peace in nature.

### Chapter 13:

The cottagers have a visitor—her name is Safie. The Creature now finds the cause of Felix's sadness. He could not be with his love, Safie. It turns out that Safie is Felix's Arabian love. Safie does not speak the same language, so it is through her lessons with the Old Man that The Creature also learns language fluently. Safie is given lessons as well and The Creature learns through the window of his hovel about history and *The Ruin of Empires*, a book that Safie read from. The book details how man constructed vast empires from the Greeks, Romans, to the Americas, but much of their greed and ambition caused the fall of some of these established civilizations.

How does the book mirror The Creature's story?

The Creature discovers that man established a hierarchy of worth where slaves inhabit the bottom rank and royalty inhabits the highest. The Creature becomes self-aware: he has no food, no real shelter of his own, no friends or wealth—he refers to himself as a monster. Knowledge becomes a miserable gift to him. He refers to himself as, "Miserable, unhappy wretch!"

- The Creature learns of birth and the growth of children; how the father and mother love their child and how the mind of youth expanded and gained knowledge through relationships and love.
- He has none of these things. SAD SAD CREATURE!!!
- He knows that the only way his pain will go away is through death!

### Questions:

How does knowledge affect The Creature?

How does his life parallel his father's?

What symbols play into these chapters?

What does the Creature want more than anything?

What has becoming self-aware done for the Creature?