**Powerful Words: Finding Our Identities in the Words of Others**

***Frankenstein*, ch. 15**

The Creature’s Experience—Books

The creature finds in the woods a case with some [books](https://crossref-it.info/textguide/frankenstein/7/339) inside: [*Sorrows of Werter*](http://knarf.english.upenn.edu/V2notes/werter.html)by Goethe, Plutarch’s [*Lives*](https://everythingwhat.com/how-does-plutarch-lives-relate-to-frankenstein)*,* and John Milton’s[*Paradise Lost*](https://mary-shelley.fandom.com/wiki/Paradise_Lost)*.*

He says, “I can hardly describe to you the effect of these books” (Shelley 115).

1. Read through pp. 115 – 117 in your *Frankenstein* book & click on the various links above to learn more about these books and their impact on the creature. For each book, describe why it has such a great impact on the creature. What does he learn from them? What parallels does he make between the books and his own life/existence?

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| *Sorrows of Werter* |  |
| Plutarch’s *Lives* |  |
| *Paradise Lost* |  |

1. Of the books above, which has the most profound impact on the creature? Why?
2. Think of any book(s) that have had an impact in your own life. What are they and why did you find them impactful? You can describe just one or multiple; if you can’t remember the title, you could describe the context of the book (i.e., when/where/why you read it, what happened, etc.).

The Creature’s Experience—Victor’s Journals

Now that he can read, the creature reads the notebook/journal of Victor Frankenstein that was in the pocket of the clothing the creature put on before leaving the apartment on the night of his “birth.”

After reading Victor’s notes and reflecting on their contents, he describes his feelings of anger, despair, and isolation; however, his thoughts of the cottagers renew his spirits.

1. Why does reading Victor’s journals bring the creature such despair? Why?
2. What connection does the creature make between Victor’s journals and Milton’s *Paradise Lost*? Explain.
3. What contrasts does the creature make between Victor and the cottagers?
4. Think of a time when the words of someone you know (whether written or spoken) had a profound impact on you (whether positive or negative). Describe that experience and their words impacted you. Do you see any parallels between your experience and the creature’s?

The Creature’s Experience—Judged by Appearance

The creature says, “I had sagacity enough to discover that the unnatural hideousness of my person was the chief object of horror with those who had formerly beheld me” (Shelley 119-20).

1. How does the creature’s above realization impact his plan to make a connection with the cottagers? What is his plan?
2. As the creature speaks with DeLacey, how does the old man respond? As he listens to the creature, what connections could he make between his own story and that of the creature?
3. How does each young cottager (Agatha, Safie, Felix) respond when the discover the creature in the cottage with DeLacy?
4. Think of a time when you were judged for being the “other” (i.e., different from the “norm”). Was this difference based on your appearance in some way? Why did others judge you in this way? How did you respond? Do you see any parallels between your experience and the creature’s?
5. Can you think of people/groups who would be considered the “other” in today’s society? Who would these be? On what basis are they judged and what assumptions are made about them?