

The Power of Nature

Objectives:

To analyze the depression and anger felt by both Frankenstein and his monster

To emphasize Shelley's portrayal of Nature as healer

Preview:

In earlier chapters, Victor Frankenstein fails to plan for his creature's integration into the world. Victor does not, in fact, aid this integration, but instead rejects his creation totally. Chapter 7 begins with a letter which Victor Frankenstein receives from his father, a letter which announces the brutal murder of William. In chapter 8, Justine Moritz is falsely accused of the crime, forced into a confession, and executed. But, Victor suffers desperately as he knows that the true criminal, his brother's murderer, is his own creation. In these chapters, as well as in ch. 9-10, Shelley emphasizes the mental states of both Frankenstein and the monster.

Part I – Frankenstein's Mental State

Look back through ch. 7-10 and record quotes that explore or provide insight into Frankenstein's depression or remorse.

1. "... I walked up and down the room in the extremest agitation." (p. 60)
2. "Fear overcame me; I dared not advance, dreading a thousand nameless evils that made me tremble, although I was unable to define them." (p. 61)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Part II – Nature's Effect on Frankenstein

Look back through ch. 7-10 and record quotes that address Nature's restorative power as it affects Frankenstein.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Part III – The Creature’s Suffering

Look back through ch. 7-10 and record quotes that explore the creature’s feelings of alienation and bitterness and the causes of his vicious acts.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Part IV – Nature’s Effect on the Creature

Look back through ch. 7-10 and record quotes that support or refute the idea that Nature acts as a healer or refuge for Frankenstein’s creature.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Part V – The Nature Motif in *Frankenstein*

Write an explanation of why both Frankenstein and his monster, two tormented souls, retreat to Nature at the end of ch. 10.