

By the end of studying Chapter 1 I need to know;

Plot: Victor talks about his family to Robert Walton

Ideas: Victor reveals his arrogance, presents women as innocent and delicate.

Vocabulary	<p>Syndics- A government official. Genevise- From Geneva, a city in Switzerland Abode- home Cherub- winged, angelic, baby figure associated with God Chamois- Horned Goat</p>
Context (To inform interpretation)	<p>Treatment of women- Victor treats Elizabeth like an object and feels like he needs to protect her. Caroline herself appears to indoctrinate Victor into believing that women should be objectified through the manner she herself speaks of Elizabeth, this is even more startling considering the fact that at one time Caroline was an independent woman. Expectations of men- protectors, strong and godly.</p>
Themes	<p>Power- Victor presents his Father and himself as powerful. He presents Elizabeth and his mother as having a lack of power.</p> <p>Arrogance- Victor is very arrogant as his father is a syndicate and they're from a</p> <p>Class and education- Victor associates class with importance</p> <p>Prejudice- the vocabulary Victor uses reveals his prejudice towards lower class.</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>Victor sees Elizabeth as his own, he feels he needs to protect her as if she is his property. He has had this attitude drilled into him from a young age as his mother was treated like this by his father.</p> <p>Viewpoint of the lower class- 'stock', 'peasant' (prejudice against poorer/lower class people).</p> <p>Victor sees his father as a godly power.</p> <p>The role of parents-</p> <p>The evolution of Caroline-Victor recounts the meeting and marriage of his mother and father. The fact that this is the first thing Victor tells Walton, a stranger, and the fact he believes this is a testament to his father's 'character' reflects how he holds a romantic view of his parents' marriage. He describes how, upon Beaufort's depression and sickness, Caroline sought 'plain work' as she 'possessed a mind of uncommon mould'- reflecting how Caroline was more independent than a typical woman from that time. However, following her marriage to Alphonse she becomes rather more subservient. Her statement to Victor at the end of the chapter- that she has 'a pretty present for [her] Victor' in the shape of Elizabeth reflects her implicit teaching of the objectification of women. Interestingly, Caroline appears to have gone from a strong independent woman, to not only a subservient one but also one who teaches her son to treat women as a possession or commodity that can be owned. This could, arguably, reflect the control of Alphonse in her marriage- he places himself as her saviour- having met her as she wept over her father's coffin. Indeed, Victor himself describes their relationship in such a way- comparing the way Alphonse protects her as 'a fair exotic is sheltered by the gardener'. The parallels here between the imagery of Caroline and of Elizabeth 'growing fairer than a rose amongst dark leaved brambles' furthers Victor's impression of women as objects to be admired for their beauty.</p> <p>The importance of wealth, class and status- Victor introduces the idea of the importance of wealth and status at the start of the chapter. He feels the necessity to inform Walton that his father was a 'syndic'- a politician- and one of the most respected and wealthiest men in Geneva. This importance of money is also reinforced through the tale of Beaufort (Elizabeth's father) and how he lost his fortune due to circumstances out of his control. His self-imposed isolation, removal from society and subsequent depression- leading to his death- reflects the degree to which money was important to</p>

Reading:

Links across the text:

William shows prejudice towards The Monster as Victor does in Chapter 1 towards lower class.

Chapter 7- The portrait Alphonse has positioned in pride of place above the fireplace is one of Caroline weeping over her father's coffin- a moment of weakness.

Letter 2, Chapters 12-14, Chapter 21- Contrast the treatment of women by members of the lower classes; what freedoms are afforded to the Master's betrothed, the wife of the turnkey and both Agatha and Safe?

	<p>Beaufort. Victor himself attests that Beaufort (his grandfather) was of 'a proud and unbending disposition and could not bear to live in poverty and oblivion in the same country where he had formerly been distinguished for his rank and magnificence' This also suggests the importance of wealth to Alphonse (as Beaufort's best best) and, by degrees, to Victor. Victor adopts a condescending tone when speaking about the poor family who had initially adopted Elizabeth. He describes how Elizabeth is of 'different stock'- dehumanising both Elizabeth and the poor family as inferior, but also suggesting that Elizabeth- by her class, despite lack of wealth- was clearly and naturally different to the others. His need to mention to Walton that her father was a 'Milanese nobleman' also seeks to reinforce the importance of class to Victor.</p> <p>The constraining nature of the upper classes on women- In this chapter, Shelley introduces the idea that women who belong to the upper classes are more constrained and forced into traditional roles than women from the lower classes. Both Caroline and Elizabeth appear to have more freedom and independence when living in poverty. Caroline procured plain work... plait[ing] straw' when her father was sick and destitute, whilst the imagery surrounding Elizabeth living with the impoverished family has regal connotations: 'wore a crown of distinction on her head'; even despite the poverty of her setting, Victor describes how she 'grew fairer than a rose amongst dark leaved brambles'- creating the impression of Elizabeth thriving and having freedom, even in the 'rude abode'. This is then juxtaposed through the fact Elizabeth became 'the inmate of the house', which has connotations of Elizabeth becoming imprisoned within the Frankenstein household- suggesting her lack of freedom within the family. In the cases of both women, they appear more constrained once they become embroiled within the Frankensteins- moving from poverty to wealth means they are forced to adhere to social convention more rigidly.</p>
<p>Quotes and references</p>	<p>'protecting spirit' , 'powerful protection'- his father was like a godly power for his mother. 'shelter' 'I, their eldest child' 'I received a lesson of charity, patience, and of self-control' 'She appeared of a different stock' - objectifying 'Lighter than the chamois of the hills' 'fairer than pictured cherub'</p>
<p>Terminology</p>	<p>Use of word classes, specifically adjectives to describe poorer/lower class, his father and himself. Personal pronouns to show arrogance. Metaphors- 'protecting spirit'. Power of 3- 'charity, patience and of self-control' Simile- when talking about Elizabeth.</p>