

By the end of studying **Chapter 19** I need to know:

**Plot:** Victor meets the monster in the mountains, accuses him of murder and tries to kill him. The monster begs for sympathy. He tells Victor that he suffered because Victor abandoned him, takes Victor to an isolated hut and begins to tell his version of the story so far.

**Ideas:** Victor is forced to listen to a different version of the story from his creation. The monster is shown to have human traits despite his appearance, however he is still presented as a threat.

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<p>Devil (reference to the monster)  presence-chamber (room in which the sovereign receives guests)  maw (mouth)  justice  guilty</p> <p>fiend  concussion of air  irrevocably (cannot be changed)  clemency (mercy/lenience)  virtuous</p> <p>vile insect  mutability  excluded  affection</p>
<b>Context (To inform interpretation)</b>	<p><b>Romanticism</b> - The power of nature is again reinforced in this chapter, as Victor comments on how nature will sooth his pain, "<i>They elevated me from all littleness of feeling, and although they did not remove my grief, they subdued and tranquillised it.</i>" This is an extension of Chapter 9 reinforcing the idea that nature has the ability to heal and restore.</p> <p>The power of the spoken word to seduce characters is becoming increasingly important here. The only character to read what is happening is Margaret Saville. All the other characters in the novel are hearing what is happening: Victor <i>hears</i> the monster, Walton <i>hears</i> Victor's account.</p> <p>The idea of the Romantic view that all man is born good but it is society and other pressures that makes man evil is really beginning to be shown throughout this chapter from the point of view of the monster. '<i>I ought to render him happy before I complained of his wickedness.</i>' demonstrates that Victor's views on the monster correlate to the context.</p> <p><b>Religion</b> - Shelley continues to reference Paradise Lost and the Bible throughout this chapter '<i>I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen Angel whom thou drivest from joy for no misdeed.</i>' In the Bible, Adam is the first man created, yet goes against God by eating an apple from the tree, this alludes to Victor being seen as God by the monster. In Milton's Paradise Lost, the <i>fallen angel</i> is much like Satan. However, here we see that the monster is presented as being sinned against rather than sinning against Victor. In the Bible, despite God banishing Adam from the Garden of Eden, he never speaks harshly of him. Yet Victor speaks with hatred towards the monster and is treated with hatred by society. This results in the monster committing murders in order to get back at his God.</p>
<b>Themes</b>	<p><b>Power</b>= Again, nature has power in this chapter. Victor gains comfort in the scenery around him. There is also a strong power play between Victor and the monster, as Victor at first wants to fight the monster to death, even though the description of the monster shows the reader, and Walton, that Victor would not be able to win '<i>...advancing towards me with superhuman speed. He bounded over the crevices in the ice...</i>' This shows the sheer power of the monster.</p> <p><b>Family</b>= Victor is seen by the monster as family '<i>my natural lord and King</i>', '<i>creator</i>' and '<i>I am thy creature</i>'.</p> <p><b>Isolation</b> = The monster begins his tale about the isolation cast upon him by the actions of Victor and society '<i>These bleak skies I hail, for they are kinder to me than your fellow beings.</i>' And '<i>Everywhere I see bliss from which I alone am irrevocably excluded.</i>' We see that the monster has been quite hurt by the lack of companionship from his creator, Victor, and from fellow mankind. At this point, the reader begins to have sympathy for the creature and what he has experienced, further emphasised by his calm and gentle response to Victor's rage and disgust.</p>
<b>Deeper understanding</b>	<p>Shelley creates a sense of irony in this chapter, as the monster appears when Victor is feeling most sorry for himself, attempting to '<i>forget the passing cares</i>'. This emphasises Victor's self-deception in his dreadful act of creating the monster and the unavoidable fact that the monster still exists. We, as the reader, are shocked at this first meeting with the monster, as he evokes sympathy with his presentation. He does not appear to be a monster at all, but a creature that has very human feelings, very articulate about his suffering and loneliness and demonstrates a conscience as he is able to recognise that he is '<i>guilty</i>'. Shelley guides the reader in this chapter to be critical of Frankenstein, as we see his full hypocrisy pointed out by the monster '<i>You purpose to kill me. How dare you sport thus with life?</i>'. Finally, we see the need for the monster to have justice; he has been treated badly by mankind, therefore he demands to be heard by Victor with '<i>justice</i>', '<i>clemency</i>', and '<i>affection</i>'.</p>

**Reading:**  
Read to the punctuation.

**Links across the text:**

Again we see Victor wish to end life, whereas his story began wanting to create and prolong it.

The setting of this chapter echoes that of the setting where Victor is telling his tale to Walton.

	<p>The barren and remote setting of this chapter has much in common with the setting in which Victor tells his tale to Walton. The similarities between the two settings emphasise the isolation and doom of both Victor and the monster.</p>
<p><b>Quotes and references</b></p>	<p>'I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen Angel whom thou drivest from joy for no misdeed.'</p> <p>'Everywhere I see bliss from which I alone am irrevocably excluded.'</p> <p>'All men hate the wretched; how then must I be hated'</p> <p>'I ought to render him happy before I complained of his wickedness.'</p> <p>'devil', 'fiend', 'vile insect'</p> <p>'You purpose to kill me. How dare you sport thus with life?'</p> <p>'misery made me a fiend'</p> <p>'Make me happy and I shall again be virtuous.'</p> <p>Mary Shelley includes a quotation from her husband's (Percy Shelley) poem 'Mutability'. It echoes Victor's position in the text but also that of the monster, as they both 'endure but mutability' in the changes in their relationship to each other, but also in how they form relationships with others in the novel, eg Frankenstein and Elizabeth's relationship is forever changing through the secret that Victor has. The monster begins life innocently but changes due to his treatment from others.</p>
<p><b>Terminology</b></p>	<p><b>Narration</b> - The monster is beginning his narration of the story in this chapter, therefore adding a third narrative voice in the novel.</p> <p><b>Irony</b> - Shelley presents the irony of Victor's suggestion of killing his own creation, as he believes he has the power to give and take life, yet hates the monsters for doing so.</p>