

By the end of studying **Chapter 15** I need to know:

- **Plot:** The monster begins his own education, reading the books and notes that he found in Victor's jacket in the nearby woods. He decides to approach the blind father when is alone but Felix, Safie and Agatha arrive and attack him.
- **Ideas:** The monster educates himself by reading books. He questions his existence and is also rejected by the De Lacy family.

<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Constantinople seaport in NW Turkey, now called Istanbul. Condemnation a condemning or being condemned; conviction. Mont Cenis Alpine pass, in the state of Savoie, in SE France; see also Monte Cenisio, from the Italian. Leghorn a seaport in Tuscany, western Italy on the Ligurian Sea. Lyons city in east central France, at the juncture of the Rhine and Sacne rivers. Viands food of various kinds, especially choice dishes. Gesticulations gestures, especially those made with the hands and arms, as in adding nuances or force to one's speech, or as a substitute for speech. Vestige a trace, mark, or sign of something that once existed but has passed away or disappeared. Jura state of Switzerland; or a mountain range along the border of Switzerland and France. Syndic any of various government officials in some European countries, esp. a civil magistrate or the like. Epithets adjectives, nouns, or phrases which are disparaging remark, used to characterize some person or thing. Numa Numa Pompillus considered second of the seven kings of Ancient Rome. Solon Greek statesman and legislator. Lycurgus traditionally considered the lawgiver who founded the institutions of Sparta. Romulus legendary founder of Rome Theseus legendary of Greek hero.</p>
<p>Context (To inform interpretation)</p>	<p>The reference to 'Adam's supplication' this refers to Paradise Lost, which Shelley has used an epigraph to Frankenstein. The monster sees his links with Adam, the first man, but also sees how they differ. Adam was happy and prosperous, cared for by his creator. Yet the monster is wretched and alone, thrown out of his Eden with no Eve to comfort him. Satan frequently seems a fitter comparison: when the monster observes the happiness of others, he is eaten up with envy.</p> <p>Romanticism: Romantic writers are concerned with nature, human feelings, compassion for mankind, freedom of the individual and Romantic hero, and rebellion against society. In the jacket pocket are Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>, Plutarch's <i>Lives of Illustrious Greeks and Romans</i>, and Goethe's <i>Sorrows of Werter</i>. The list is a virtual required reading list of books that are all influenced by the Romantic movement in England.</p> <p>The texts the creature reads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plutarch compares and contrasts the lives of Greek and Roman statesmen or soldiers for historical perspective. It makes the monster admire "virtue" and hate "vice". • Goethe's work is a novel of letters written by a youth who is very sensitive and steadfast, who kills himself after being so uncompromising and idealistic. This makes the monster question his own existence - "who was I?" "What was I?"- as well as making him see the differences between himself and other people. It expands his sensibilities and he applies the story to his own feelings and condition, intensifying his sense of alienation. • Milton's book is about the creation story and Adam, which causes the monster to question his own creation and place in the world.

Reading:

De Lacey is a kind, blind old man who's been exiled from his home in France. He's looked after by his son and daughter.

Safie is a beautiful Turkish woman, who comes to live with the family after her father escapes from the law. She has a romantic relationship with Felix.

Felix and Agatha are De Lacey's children.

Links across the text:

Victor rejects the monster in Chapter 5.

The monster is attacked and rejected by society in chapter 11.

Themes	<p>Rejection makes the monster act like the terrifying beast. The De Lacey's reject the monster with horror. Shelley suggests how appearance is privileged in this society. They exclude anything that appears as a potential threat to their security are quite unable to cope with the intrusion of the monster into their world.</p> <p>Prejudice - De Lacey is blind, so he's the only person who doesn't judge the monster. Instead he highlights the monster's other qualities, such as eloquence- the way he speaks persuades De Lacey that he's sincere.</p>
Deeper understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finally, the monster discovers Victor's own notebooks, which explain how the monster came into existence. The monster is both intrigued and horrified at learning how he came into existence. • The monster also sees that his "adopted family" is doing better with the arrival of Safie. <p>Prejudice- The monster decides to reveal himself to De Lacey when he's alone. He hopes his blindness will mean that he won't be prejudiced against him. This reveals how the creature has learned the 'horror of [his] deformity' as a result of his prior experiences. The old De Lacey responds well to the creature, identifying a 'kindness' in his voice and his manner; this establishes the creature as a victim, one where man's old prejudices cause him to become evil. This is further reinforced through his reaction to the texts he reads- as the creature, alone and abandoned, seeks to identify with one of the characters. Initially, in '<i>The Sorrows of Werter</i>' he is able to establish empathy with Werter regarding his depression and isolation. However, unlike Werter, the creature does not seek his own destruction- not least until the very end of the novel. He finds parallels between himself and both Adam and Lucifer. However, he finds himself akin to Lucifer here, describing how the 'bitter gall of envy rose' from watching his 'protectors', the De Lacey family. This recalls back to what the creature tells Victor in Chapter 10- how 'misery made [him] and fiend' and 'he ought to be thy Adam but am rather the fallen angel'- both of these reflect the creature's desires to be good, as evidenced by De Lacey's comment on the sound of his voice- but he is unable to be. Events appear outside of the creature's control.</p>
Quotes and references	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was wretched, helpless, and alone. - the monster is isolated from society and has nobody to help him. • Like Adam, I was apparently united by no link to any other being in existence. - The monster feels he is like Adam as he has no link anyone else. • Many times, I considered Satan as the fitter emblem of my condition. - The monster believes he is more like Satan than Adam as he feels he is evil. • Accursed creator! Why did you form a monster so hideous that even you turned from me in disgust? - The monster is angry and frustrated at Victor for creating a hideous monster that even Victor is disgusted by. • I am solitary and abhorred. - The monster is lonely and is hated by society due to his appearance. • I remembered Adam's supplication to his Creator. But where was mine? He had abandoned me. - The monster compares himself to Adam as he begged his creator for forgiveness but the monster questions where his creator, Victor is, as he has been abandoned. • He dashed me to the ground and struck me violently with a stick. - The monster is beaten violently by Felix as he is horrified that he was speaking to his father, Felix thought he might have hurt his father.
Terminology	<p>Epigraph an inscription on a building or statue; quotation at the beginning of a book or chapter.</p> <p>Eloquence fluent or persuasive speaking or writing.</p> <p>List of three - used by the monster to describe his emotions and feelings.</p> <p>Exclamative sentence - used by the monster to show his frustration at Victor for creating a hideous monster.</p> <p>Verbs - used to show the violence against the monster e.g. "dashed" "struck"</p>