

By the end of studying **Chapter 16** I need to know:

**Plot:** The De Lacey's depart, and the monster burns down their cottage. He decides to travel to Geneva to seek help from Victor, but he is shot for saving a girl from drowning and kills William Frankenstein. He commands Victor to make him a companion.

**Ideas:** The monster wants revenge for Victor as he has made him lonely and isolated by society.

<b>Vocabulary</b>	<p><b>Myriad</b> a large indefinite number  <b>Devote</b> give all or a large part of one's time or resources to (a person, activity, or cause) or invoke or pronounce a curse upon.  <b>Imprudently</b> not showing care for the consequences of an action; rash.  <b>Irretrievable</b> not able to be retrieved or put right  <b>Imprecate</b> utter (a curse) or invoke (evil) against someone or something.  <b>Solitude</b> a state of being alone  <b>Precipitous</b> dangerously high or steep or done suddenly and without careful consideration  <b>Benevolence</b> the quality of being well meaning; kindness  <b>Recompense</b> payment or reward, as for service rendered  <b>Desolate</b> crushed by grief  <b>Toils</b> nets</p>
<b>Context (To inform interpretation)</b>	<p><b>Romanticism:</b> Romantic writers are concerned with nature, human feelings, compassion for mankind, freedom of the individual and Romantic hero, and rebellion against society. William is initially presented as the 'Romantic' ideal of an innocent, uncorrupted child. However, it turns out he is prejudiced too. Shelley could be questioning this idealised presentation of childhood.</p>
<b>Themes</b>	<p><b>Rejection</b> makes the monster act like the terrifying beast that everyone expects him to be. The monster won't fight Felix, but he rampages through the forest "like a wild beast". When he returns to the cottage and finds it empty he burns it down, symbolising the destruction of his only link with society.  <b>Violence</b> - the monster is shot after saving a girl from drowning.  <b>Revenge</b> - The monster begins his cycle of revenge in the novel. He kills William to punish Frankenstein- he realises it will "create desolation" for him.  <b>Prejudice</b> - the monster is prejudiced towards Justine. He automatically assumes that she would "denounce" him if she woke up. The monster also hopes William would be "unprejudiced" because he is so young and might still want to be his friend. However, William reacts with terror.</p>
<b>Deeper understanding</b>	<p>The monster hopes William is too young to have a "horror of deformity" but William judges him like everyone else. Shelley suggest that even the youngest people in society can still be prejudiced. William's death is the monster's first act of revenge, and he realises that hurting Frankenstein's family will "torment and destroy" him. Shelley shows that repeated rejection by society has meant that hatred has replaced the monster's natural goodness therefore, this leads to the Monster framing Justine for the murder.</p> <p><b>The healing power of nature-</b> Throughout this chapter, as previously, nature appears to have a calming influence on the creature- reinforcing a central Romantic idea of the Sublimity of nature. However, it is worth noting the increasing volatility of his anger upon each subsequent rejection. This also reflects the childlike nature of the creature- he is not able to control his emotions, almost the way a toddler cannot control their actions- the depiction of his snapping twigs also attests to this.</p>

**Reading:**

William is Victor Frankenstein's youngest brother. He is loved by his whole family.

Justine Mortiz is the Frankenstein's family servant. She's rejected by her mother, but is welcomed into the Frankenstein family, and is treated with respect.

**Links across the text:**

**Chapter 5-** Victor describes the creature as the 'lifeless thing that lay at my feet'

**Chapter 10-** Compare the confidence and assertiveness of the creature in Chapter 16, with his apparent subservience- does the creature think he has won Victor over or is he carried away merely retelling the murder of William?

	<p><b>Physical power and destruction-</b> This chapter marks the first time the creature is aware of the power he has for destruction- first by setting the De Lacys' cottage alight, then the murder of William. The latter he describes how William 'lay dead at [his] feet' offering a parallel to how Victor described the creature as the 'lifeless thing that lay at [his] feet' in chapter 5- except, rather than his power coming from intellect or education it is wholly physical. He exclaims how his 'heart swelled in the exultation of hellish triumph'; the creature is aware of the evil he has committed, yet seems to relish in doing so. His taunting of Justine- whispering in her ear- and placing of the locket upon her reveals the fact that the creature has moved from reactive to proactive; he is now in control of his emotions after discovering his power in the physical form. It's worth noting here, as well, that the creature talks in rather explicit detail of William's murder and the impact of it on him to Victor- William's brother. Gone is the sophistry of the creature's manipulations in Chapter 10- either because of his certainty of his power and Victor acquiescence to him, or as a result of the excitement the creature has from simply recounting the murder.</p>
<p><b>Quotes and references</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live?</b> - The monster is angry and frustrated that his creator Victor has abandoned him and left him to be lonely.</li> <li>• <b>I declared everlasting war against the species, and, more than all, against him who had formed me, and sent me forth to his unsupportable misery.</b> - the monster declares war on humans but especially Victor as he has left him to be miserable and isolated from society.</li> <li>• <b>My protectors had departed and had broken the only link that held me to the world.</b> - The De Lacey family were the only link the monster had to the outside world as he learnt to speak from them and had an attachment to the family.</li> <li>• <b>For the first time the feelings of revenge and hatred filled my bosom.</b> - The monster never had feelings of revenge and hatred until the De Lacey family rejected him and he was attacked by other humans.</li> <li>• <b>This was then the reward for my benevolence! I had saved a human being from destruction, and, as a recompense I now writhed under the miserable pain of a wound.</b> - The monster is angry that he has saved a child from drowning, but he was attacked for protecting her. He is miserable as he saved a girl, but he was rewarded with violence.</li> <li>• <b>I vowed eternal hatred and vengeance to all mankind.</b> - the monster vows to hatred and revenge to all mankind as he has been rejected and beaten violently.</li> <li>• <b>Frankenstein! You belong to my enemy- to him towards whom I have sworn eternal revenge, you shall be my first victim.</b> - the monster realises that William is related to Victor who is his enemy. The monster kills William as an act of revenge and to get Victor's attention.</li> <li>• <b>My companion must be of the same species and have the same defects as me. This being you must create.</b> - The monster commands Victor to make a female companion to have the same defects as himself.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Terminology</b></p>	<p><b>Parallel</b> - something that is similar. The scene between William and the monster is a parallel to the scene between the Monster and Felix but William's language is used to hurt the monster rather than the physical violence used by Felix.</p> <p><b>Alliteration</b> -used by the monster to show that he is "cursed" and he is angry that Victor allowed him to live in such misery.</p> <p><b>Imperative sentence</b> -The monster demands Victor to make him a female companion.</p> <p><b>Personal pronouns</b> - first person "I" possessive pronouns "my" show that the monster cares about himself, and how he has been treated by others and what he demands from Victor.</p>