

By the end of studying **Chapter 18** I need to know:

Plot: Victor, reluctant to begin work on the female companion, spends many weeks in Geneva. Victor decides he must create the companion before marrying Elizabeth. Clerval and Victor go to London.

Ideas: Victor needs to make the companion before he can marry Elizabeth, so he can protect his family.

<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Disquisition: research Philosopher: scientist Competent fortune: sufficient money on which to live comfortably Bourne: destination, goal Very poetry of nature: ascribed by Shelley in the 1818 edition to Leigh Hunt's 'The Story of Rimini' (1816), a narrative poem on the love affair of Paolo and Francesca. Spanish Armada: fleet sent by Phillip II of Spain against England in 1588. Repugnance intense disgust. Laborious especially of a task, process, or journey) requiring considerable effort and time or (of speech or writing style) showing obvious signs of effort and lacking in fluency. Hitherto until now or until the point in time under discussion. Conjecture an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information Exordium the beginning or introductory part, especially of a discourse or treatise Poignant evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret. Indolence avoidance of activity or exertion; laziness</p>
<p>Context (To inform interpretation)</p>	<p>In earlier Gothic fictions, the castle is a key site, frequently a menacing place in which the heroine is imprisoned. With Frankenstein, the primary Gothic space changes to become Victor's horrific workshops. The "ruined castles standing on the edges or precipices", that Victor and Clerval observe as they sail down the Rhine contain no threat and function only as part of the scenery.</p> <p>Coleridge's <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> (1798). The Mariner tells of his experiences on a ship locked in ice in the Antarctic. The sailors were visited by an albatross, a great sea bird that seemed to befriend the men. Their luck improved: the ice broke up and a breeze from the south pushed them through the fog. Suddenly, and inexplicably, the mariner shot the bird, bringing a curse upon himself and his ship.</p>
<p>Themes</p>	<p>Isolation Frankenstein's decision to create another monster makes him want to isolate himself. The monster's demands make him lonely.</p>
<p>Deeper understanding</p>	<p>Victor cannot plan a marriage "with this deadly weight yet hanging round my neck". Here he draws on an image from Coleridge's <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> (1798). The mariner, driven by guilt, must wear the bird he shoots around his neck; the albatross around the neck has become an idiomatic phrase to suggest a burden one carries.</p> <p>Victor's "horror and dismay" seem rather excessive, and indeed much more connected to the idea of the "immediate union with Elizabeth" than anything else. This forms a striking contrast with the monster's expression of desire for a mate. Victor repeats the word "union" when describing the exchange with his father. Whilst Alphonse uses the word "marriage" three times- Victor uses the word "union" five times and never uses the word 'marriage'.</p> <p>Union might suggest a more formal social and legal contract; on the other hand, it is more indicative of a physical joining, of a sexual union. It may well be Victor, who prefers to do this creating on his own, fears of a physical relationship with Elizabeth. This can be linked to the dream of Elizabeth changing into a corpse of his mother in his arms. The idea that on one level it is Victor's sexuality that is monstrous will become clearer as the wedding night draws near.</p>

Reading:

Alphonse Frankenstein is Victor's father.

Elizabeth Lavenza- orphan child taken in by Victor's family. Becomes Victor's wife later on.

Clerval is Victor's best friend.

Victor creates the monster. He is in love with Elizabeth.

Links across the text:

Victor researches how to make the monster in Chapters 3-4.

Victor dreams that Elizabeth will die in chapter 5.

<p>Quotes and references</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I confess, my son, that I have always looked forward to your marriage with our dear Elizabeth as the tie of our domestic comfort, and the stay of my declining years- Alphonse wants Victor and Elizabeth to get married before he dies. • Alas! To me the idea of an immediate union with my Elizabeth was one of horror and dismay. - He can't marry Elizabeth until his horror with the Monster is finished. • I was bound by a solemn promise, which I had not yet fulfilled, and dared not break; or, if I did, what manifold miseries might not impend over me and my devoted family! - Victor has made a promise to keep that he will marry Elizabeth, but he also made a promise to make the female companion. He needs to make the companion to protect his family. • Could I enter into a festival with this deadly weight yet hanging round my neck and bowing me to the ground. - Victor cannot enter the marriage whilst he has the business with the monster to complete. • I must perform my engagement, and let the monster depart with his mate before I allow myself to enjoy the delight of a union from which I expected peace. - Victor needs to perform the promise he made to the Monster, so he can leave. Victor cannot enjoy his wedding until he is at peace with the monster. • To England, there, I was bound, and it was understood that my union with Elizabeth should take place immediately on my return. - Victor realises that he must marry Elizabeth once he is back from his trip to England.
<p>Terminology</p>	<p>Repetition - Victor repeats "union" as he feels afraid of starting a relationship with Elizabeth.</p> <p>Terms of endearment - Alphonse uses "Dear Elizabeth" to show his affection to Elizabeth and how much he cares for her.</p> <p>Modal verbs - "could" "should" "must" show that the characters are unsure about their decisions especially Victor as he has doubts about the marriage and creating the female monster.</p> <p>Exclamative sentences - used by Victor to show his frustration for his business with the monster.</p>