

By the end of studying **Chapter 2** I need to know:

Plot: Victor's early interest in Science emerges. Henry Clerval is introduced. Victor describes his perfect childhood.

Ideas: The division between male and female roles is emphasised. Romantic writers viewed nature as a sublime force beyond the power or understanding of man.

Vocabulary	<p>Natural Philosophy Elixir of life - A supposed potion of the alchemist that would prolong life. Cornelius Agrippa 1493 - 1535 remembered for his disobedient apprentice who accidentally conjured up the devil. Alchemist - a person who transforms or creates something through a seemingly magical process Galvanism electricity produced by a chemical reaction.</p>
Context (To inform interpretation)	<p><i>Romantic writers viewed nature as a sublime force beyond the power or understanding of man. Victor learns about new theories of electricity after witnessing a thunder storm.</i> This confirms his belief that electricity and "galvanism" are worthy subjects for further study. Galvanism electricity produced by a chemical reaction.</p>
Themes	<p>Ambition - An early hint at Victor's dangerous ambition, and his innocent belief that man is powerful and wise enough to comprehend nature.</p> <p>Science vs Religion Victor believes that electricity and "galvanism" are worthy subjects for further study. This ultimately leads to the creation of the monster - challenging the religious belief that only God is able to create new life</p> <p>Sublime Nature Romantic writers viewed nature as a sublime force beyond the power or understanding of man.</p> <p>Family - 'No human being could have passed a happier childhood than myself' This contrasts directly with Frankenstein's prompt abandonment of his monster, following its creation.</p>
Deeper understanding	<p>Victor describes his perfect childhood. He and Elizabeth got along perfectly, though she favoured poetry while he longed to unravel the "physical secrets" of life, including the "hidden laws of nature." Division between male and female roles becomes more evident.</p> <p>One day, when Victor observes lightning strike a tree, he realises that the laws of science are beyond human understanding and decides to focus on studies based in fact, like mathematics, rather than natural philosophy. Yet he notes that he eventually returned to it, leading to his "utter and terrible destruction."</p> <p>We begin to see Victor's personality type as sometimes "violent and my passions vehement." He dislikes learning languages, politics, and government and instead chooses to throw himself into the study of science, which he calls "the physical secrets of the world." While Elizabeth and Henry pursue the normal activities of children.</p>
Quotes and references	<p>Elizabeth filled her time with 'trifling occupations'</p> <p>'The world was to me a secret which I desired to divine' - Victor</p> <p>Victor expresses his desire to penetrate the "citadel of nature."</p>

Reading:

Chapter 2

Reference to scientific discoveries -

- Galvanism
- Sir Isaac Newton

Read to the punctuation.

Links across the text:

- Creation of the monster
- Galvanism

Establishes the Relationship between -

- Victor and Elizabeth
- Victor and Henry
- Role of women

Contrasts the creature's isolation to the happy childhood Victor experienced.

Terminology

Proleptic future tense - Victor reinforces his certainty in the belief that he will discover nature's secrets.