

AP English Literature and Composition
Frankenstein—Literary Analysis (Chapters XI-XVI)

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I'm gonna ace this!

- I. From the passages you brought to class, choose the one that illuminates the theme of **ambition, forbidden knowledge, or science vs. nature**. For that passage A) explain the context of the passage in **one sentence**; B) make an assertion about at least **two** literary elements in the passage (highlight the literary elements) and how they develop a **thematic topic** (highlight the thematic topic); C) explain your assertion, including quoted "snippets" from the passage in your explanation. You don't have to explain the meaning of the thematic topic, but you do need to explain what the passage says—implicitly or explicitly—about the topic. You need to include and highlight the literary elements and thematic topic from your assertion in the explanation.
- II. Choose **two** of the passages below. Follow the instructions above for these passages.

For all three passages (one of yours, two of mine), choose from the following literary elements: ~~allusion, characterization, contrast, detail, figurative language, foil, foreshadowing, imagery, and/or tone~~. **DO NOT USE THE SAME LITERARY TERM TWICE**. This means you need to read all of the passages to determine prominent devices before you decide which passages you will explain.

For the passages you choose from those I have provided, one should develop the thematic idea of isolation from **family and society/duty to family**, and the other should develop the theme of **prejudice and/or revenge**.

Isolation from Family and Society
Duty to Family

Prejudice
Revenge

- 1. "Other lessons were impressed upon me even more deeply. I heard of the difference of sexes; and the birth and growth of children; how the father doated on the smiles of the infant, and the lively sallies of the older child; how all the life and cares of the mother were wrapped up in the precious charge; how the mind of youth expanded and gained knowledge; of brother, sister, and all the various relationships which bind one human being to another in mutual bonds."
- 2. "But where were my friends and relations? No father had watched my infant days, no mother had blessed me with smiles and caresses; or if they had, all my past life was now a blot, a blind vacancy in which I distinguished nothing. From my earliest remembrance I had been as I then was in height and proportion. I had never yet seen a being resembling me, or who claimed any intercourse with me. What was I? The question again recurred, to be answered only with groans."

3. "But ^{allusion} *Paradise Lost* excited different and far deeper emotions. I read it, as I had read the other volumes which had fallen into my hands, as a true history. It moved every feeling of wonder and awe that the picture of an omnipotent God warring with his creatures was capable of exciting. I often referred the several situations, as their similarity struck me, to my own. Like Adam, I was apparently united by no link to any other being in existence; but his state was far different from mine in every other respect. He had come forth from the hands of God a perfect creature, happy and prosperous, guarded by the especial care of his Creator; he was allowed to converse with, and acquire knowledge from, beings of a superior nature: but I was wretched, helpless, and alone. Many times I considered Satan as the fitter emblem of my condition; for often, like him, when I viewed the bliss of my protectors, the bitter gall of envy rose within me."

Isolation from Family and Society

contrast

4. "Several changes, in the meantime, took place in the cottage. The presence of Safie diffused happiness among its inhabitants; and I also found that a greater degree of plenty reigned there. Felix and Agatha spent more time in amusement and conversation, and were assisted in their labours by servants. They did not appear rich, but they were contented and happy; their feelings were serene and peaceful, while mine became every day more tumultuous. Increase of knowledge only discovered to me more clearly what a wretched outcast I was. I cherished hope, it is true; but it vanished when I beheld my person reflected in water, or my shadow in the moonshine, even as that frail image and that inconstant shade."

5. "When night came, I quitted my retreat, and wandered in the wood; and now, no longer restrained by the fear of discovery, I gave vent to my anguish in fearful howlings. I was like a wild beast that had broken the toils; destroying the objects that obstructed me, and ranging through the wood with a stag like swiftness. O! what a miserable night I passed! the cold stars shone in mockery, and the bare trees waved their branches above me: now and then the sweet voice of a bird burst forth amidst the universal stillness. All, save I, were at rest or in enjoyment: I, like the arch-fiend, bore a hell within me; and, finding myself unsympathised with, wished to tear up the trees, spread havoc and destruction around me, and then to have sat down and enjoyed the ruin."

Revenge

metaphor

6. "I continued for the remainder of the day in my hovel in a state of utter and stupid despair. My protectors had departed, and had broken the only link that held me to the world. For the first time the feelings of revenge and hatred filled my bosom, and I did not strive to control them; but, allowing myself to be borne away by the stream, I bent my mind towards injury and death. When I thought of my friends, of the mild voice of De Lacey, the gentle eyes of Agatha, and the exquisite beauty of the Arabian, these thoughts vanished, and a gush of tears somewhat soothed me. But again, when I reflected that they had spurned and deserted me, anger returned, a rage of anger; and, unable to injure anything human, I turned my fury towards inanimate objects. As night advanced, I placed a variety of combustibles around the cottage; and, after having destroyed every vestige of cultivation in the garden, I waited with forced impatience until the moon had sunk to commence my operations."

7. "But how was I to direct myself? I knew that I must travel in a south westerly direction to reach my destination; but the sun was my only guide. I did not know the names of the towns that I was to pass through, nor could I ask information from a single human being; but I did not despair. From you only could I hope for succour, although towards you I felt no sentiment but that of hatred. Unfeeling, heartless creator! you had endowed me with perceptions and passions, and then cast me abroad an object for the scorn and horror of mankind. But on you only had I any claim for pity and redress, and from you I determined to seek that justice which I vainly attempted to gain from any other being that wore the human form."

8. "My travels were long, and the sufferings I endured intense. It was late in autumn when I quitted the district where I had so long resided. I travelled only at night, fearful of encountering the visage of a human being. Nature decayed around me, and the sun became heatless; rain and snow poured around me; mighty rivers were frozen; the surface of the earth was hard, and chill, and bare, and I found no shelter. Oh, earth! how often did I imprecate curses on the cause of my being! The mildness of my nature had fled, and all within me was turned to gall and bitterness. The nearer I approached to your habitation, the more deeply did I feel the spirit of revenge enkindled in my heart. Snow fell, and the waters were hardened; but I rested not. A few incidents now and then directed me, and I

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Prejudice

"They are kind—they are the most excellent creatures in the world; but, unfortunately, they are prejudiced against me. I have good dispositions; my life has been hitherto harmless and in some degree beneficial; but a fatal prejudice clouds their eyes, and where they ought to see a feeling and kind friend, they behold only a detestable monster."

Revenge

"And now, with the world before me, whither should I bend my steps? I resolved to fly far from the scene of my misfortunes; but to me, hated and despised, every country must be equally horrible. At length the thought of you crossed my mind. I learned from your papers that you were my father, my creator; and to whom could I apply with more fitness than to him who had given me life? Among the lessons that Felix had bestowed upon Safie, geography had not been omitted; I had learned from these the relative situations of the different countries of the earth. You had mentioned Geneva as the name of your native town, and towards this place I resolved to proceed."

"But how was I to direct myself? I knew that I must travel in a southwesterly direction to reach my destination, but the sun was my only guide. I did not know the names of the towns that I was to pass through, nor could I ask information from a single human being; but I did not despair. From you only could I hope for succour, although towards you I felt no sentiment but that of hatred. Unfeeling, heartless creator! You had endowed me with perceptions and passions and then cast me abroad an object for the scorn and horror of mankind. But on you only had I any claim for pity and redress, and from you I determined to seek that justice which I vainly attempted to gain from any other being that wore the human form."

Forbidden Knowledge / ambition

"I cannot describe to you the agony that these reflections inflicted upon me; I tried to dispel them, but sorrow only increased with knowledge. Oh, that I had forever remained in my native wood, nor known nor felt beyond the sensations of hunger, thirst, and heat!"

"Of what a strange nature is knowledge! ^{personification} It clings to the mind when it has once seized on it like a lichen ^{figurative} on the rock. ^{simile} I wished sometimes to shake off all thought and feeling, but I learned that there was but one means to overcome the sensation of pain, and that was death—a state which I feared yet did not understand. I admired virtue and good feelings and loved the gentle manners and amiable qualities of my cottagers, but I was shut out from intercourse with them, except through means which I obtained by stealth, when I was unseen and unknown, and which rather increased than satisfied the desire I had of becoming one among my fellows. The gentle words of Agatha and the animated smiles of the charming Arabian were not for me. The mild exhortations of the old man and the lively conversation of the loved Felix were not for me. Miserable, unhappy wretch!

↑ Characterization

↳ Imagery

Analysis XI-XVI
Frankenstein 1

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Forbidden Knowledge (My passage)

A) The Creature ^{or Ambition} is speaking to his creator about ~~what~~ his life has been like and what he has gone through before he has been reunited with Frankenstein.

B) Figurative language, characterization, and imagery develop the topic that the creature's ambition to acquire more "forbidden" knowledge has only made him less comforted and more alone rather than the companionship he thought he would feel and obtain.

C) The Creature explains ^{that} ~~this~~ knowledge he has acquired has only increased his ~~sorrow~~ his "sorrow only increased with knowledge" and it would have been better for him to lack his ambition and remain naive and comforted. He also uses figurative language to display that knowledge "clings to the mind" and he can't seem to be free of it for it has "slipped on [him] like a lichen on [a] rock".

Because of this acquirement of this seemingly forbidden knowledge, the ~~Creature~~ Creature characterizes himself as a "miserable, unhappy wretch" who should have just stayed in the woods, never to thirst for anything other than a drink. Lastly, imagery shows that finding out about Mar's "gentle words" and "animated smiles" has only depressed him more as he can never join them.

3 Isolation from family and Society

A) The Creature has found books and has acquired knowledge of God and the creation of man and now he is comparing the story to himself.

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

Analysis XI-XVI
Frankenstein 2

B) An allusion, contrast, and tone develop the theme of the Creature's isolation who only wants to be loved and cherished but because he is rejected he believes he must be the spawn of Satan.

C) The Creature first discovers the story of man's creation by the allusion to Paradise Lost which spoke of God's loving relationship with Man. Upon hearing of this remarkable and amiable relationship, the topic of isolation is further introduced by the contrast of "like Adam, [he] was apparently united by no link to any other being in existence" but they were "far different... in every other respect" as the Creature is feared and Adam ^{was} loved. Finally, the tone of envy is expressed by the Creature as he just wants to be ~~cherished~~ "happy and prosperous" to be a part of that "bliss" that comes from being a regular human being with a family.

5 Revenge

A) His protectors have left after he tried to make friends with them and when in a rage, he decides never to trust the foul creature Man again and swears to bring ruin to them for his mistreatment.

B) Foil, foreshadowing, and detail develop the theme of revenge that the Creature exudes upon the rejection of his protectors ~~then~~ ^{love} all he wanted was some love and companionship and in return ~~means~~ ^{longs} to destroy all that is Man and what he loves.

C) Detail describes the misery of the Creature at his rejection which

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results in "fearful howlings" beneath "the cold stars [that] shone in mockery" of his disappointment. His foreshadowing of "spreading] havoc and destruction" ^{in revenge against} ~~the~~ Mankind also reveals the foil against Frankenstein for while they both had ambition towards Mankind and seem isolated from society, ~~the~~ the Creature turns against Man while the Doctor just wanted to help Man. They also both sought for knowledge that in turn ruined them.