

- ⇒ Pg75 'four digits and an eye' - tattoo.
- Narrative tool of unease prompted in reader by echoes of past 'everything that happens in the book has already happened'
- Pg35 'we were a society dying'.
- 'Underground female road' allusion to 'underground railroad'- slavery 1800s- assistance to Canada.
- French revolution- Victor like the people of France had high expectations of their dreams- French wanted more power to the people and Victor wants to create a species that would bless him as its creator- revolution turned to bloodbath- link to Victor's experiences at the reality of his dream.
 - ⇒ Mob frequently represented as a monster.
 - ⇒ Emblem of French Revolution- 'gigantic body politic'.
 - ⇒ Both Victor + the Creature become consumed by revenge- driven by obsessions/embodiment of the revolution mob violence.
- Walton's voyage- part of larger colonial project at time- break through northern passage to encourage British colonization/trade with Orient.

Literary contexts

- Postmodernism- idea that there is no one specific truth- facts are simply widely accepted interpretations of an event or theory.
- Setting of Harvard and satire of structures in historical notes.
- Romanticism- Victor and Walton both possess qualities of the solitary genius- Romantic idea.
- Shelley uses their exploits and characters to criticize the typical Romantic idea of solitary genius.
- Milton's Paradise Lost- epigraph.
 - ⇒ Encourages reader to associate Victor with God + the Creature with Adam.
 - ⇒ As creator- Victor assumes role of God.
 - ⇒ The Creature fits the role of Adam but also assumes roles of Satan- 'I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen Angel' p.103 + echoes Satan's words in Paradise Lost 'evil therefore became my good' p.222.
 - ⇒ Victor links to Satan- pride and ambition- attempts to displace God.
 - Simile 'like the archangel who aspired to omnipotence. I am chained in an eternal hell'.
 - Romantics admired Milton's Satan- bold aspirations/attempt to give humankind God's power.
- Rime of Ancient Mariner.
 - ⇒ Walton's journey in Arctic and quotes poem when ship trapped.
 - ⇒ Victor like the Mariner defies God- by shooting albatross he disturbs natural order- transforms his world into nightmare vision of an alien universe.
 - ⇒ The Creature's experiences offer similar insight into godless world- irrational/terrifying/managed only by human institutions which are corrupt/individuals cruel + irresponsible.

Gender contexts

- Feminist triumphs of 1970s- widespread access to contraception, legalization of abortion, increasing political influence of female voters.
- Backlash against feminism in 1980s- some believe caused decay of family values and displacement of men.
- 19th C idea of separate God-given spheres for men/women-Shelley critiques gender roles/rejection by men of the female sphere.
 - ⇒ Cult of domesticity influence- late 18th- 19thC.
- Mary Wollenscraft (Shelley's mother)- early feminist- argued for Women's rights to education.