Narrative tool of unease prompted in reader by echoes of past ‘everything that happens in the book has already happened’

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.

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 these’ for I was used as 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 frozen Artic 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.

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.