

Frankenstein text response task

Provide a brief overview of the context of this passage within the wider work – e.g., where does it occur, what is happening or important about it? (1-2 sentences)

Chapter five outlines Victor's reaction to the monster as it struggles to find meaning after being shunned by society. The passage displays Victor's disgust towards the being and his regret for the years invested in its creation. We are shown the thinking of a creator in two minds - to nurture a beautiful creation, or to reject the hideous beast.

In what ways does this passage develop the readers' response to major character/s, either those present or those being spoken about? How is this characterisation important for the text as a whole? You should aim to identify techniques in this answer, not simply quote lines.

Shelley is able to abruptly alter reader's perceptions of Victor, as the illusion of an ambitious and righteous character falls at the moment of his monster's creation. Victor's belief that everything in life has a purpose led readers to believe that he was afraid of nothing. However, upon creating the monster Victor is confronted with the unknown, relinquishing his original beliefs and questioning the validity of his former ideals. Upon seeing the monster alive in its animated form for the first time, Shelley has Victor narrate "Unable to endure the aspect of the being I had created. I rushed out of the room and continued a long time traversing my bedchamber, unable to compose my mind to sleep." This description of events is key in establishing a theme of haunting within the chapter, and signifies Victor's feeling of confusion and aversion towards the monster – an abrupt transition from the audacious and daring character we once saw early in the novel.

Discuss the ways in which this passage is important either thematically or atmospherically for the text as a whole. For example, which of the text's important issues or themes are addressed here? Does the passage build tension or develop the plot in an important way?

Chapter five, sparking the monster's life into this world as a major occurrence within the novel, is key in establishing the compassionate aura felt by readers towards him. The right to personal freedom is a major theme addressed by Shelley to establish to the darker side of Victor towards readers. Portraying a feeling of hate towards the beast, Victor believes it his decision to determine the worthiness of the being's right to life, and as the chapter goes on he passes judgement against the being's worth. As this happens, the audience feels empathy for the monster's mistreatment, and resentment towards Victor. This creates an immediate change in the overall atmosphere of the novel, as Shelley uses literary techniques to develop