

FRANKENSTEIN

Chapters 20-21 Notes



MINI-LESSON: BYRONIC HERO

CHR 1.D DESCRIBE HOW TEXTUAL
DETAILS REVEAL NUANCES AND
COMPLEXITIES IN CHARACTERS'
RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER..

CHR-1.AC WHEN READERS CONSIDER A
CHARACTER, THEY SHOULD EXAMINE
HOW THAT CHARACTER INTERACTS WITH
OTHER CHARACTERS, GROUPS, OR FORCES
AND WHAT THOSE INTERACTIONS MAY
INDICATE ABOUT THE CHARACTER.

- Spend a few minutes designing a personal ad for Victor Frankenstein, showcasing his Byronic hero traits.
 - **Conflicting emotions or madness**
 - **Distaste for social institutions or norms**
 - **Being an exile, outcast, or rebel**
 - **A lack of respect for rank and privilege**
 - **A troubled past**
 - **Self-destructive tendencies**
- When you finish share your personal ad with a neighbor until everyone is done.



BYRONIC HERO

- The Byronic hero is a fictional and cultural character type popular in the Romantic era and beyond. It was made popular by characters created by Lord Byron.
 - The best examples of Byronic heroes include Mr. Rochester from *Jane Eyre*, Heathcliff from *Wuthering Heights*, and Satan from *Paradise Lost*.
- How does Victor Frankenstein exhibit the traits of a Byronic Hero?
 - More modern examples could include Edward Cullen from *Twilight* or Severus Snape from the *Harry Potter* series.
- What makes a Byronic hero an interesting character type? Why do you think that character type has endured until today?



QUOTES TO KNOW – IN YOUR NOTES, CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH QUOTE BELOW BEFORE WE DISCUSS THEM.

- **“I shall be with you on your wedding-night.” p. 147**
- **“I had resolved in my own mind that that to create another like the fiend I had first made would be an act of the basest and most atrocious selfishness.” p. 149**
- **“The cup of life was poisoned forever, and although the sun shone upon me, as upon the happy and gay of heart, I saw around me nothing but a dense and frightful darkness, penetrated by no light but the glimmer of two eyes that glared upon me.” p. 160**



QUOTES TO KNOW – IN YOUR NOTES, CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH QUOTE BELOW BEFORE WE DISCUSS THEM.

- **“I shall be with you on your wedding-night.” p. 147**
 - This seemingly obvious threat is lost on Victor, who takes it at surface value. He believes the creature will deprive him of any happiness, especially getting married.
- **“I had resolved in my own mind that that to create another like the fiend I had first made would be an act of the basest and most atrocious selfishness.” p. 149**
 - Finally thinking of others, Victor reasons that he is creating the female monster purely to save his own skin. He refuses, for the good of humanity, but sacrificing his own happiness in the act.
- **“The cup of life was poisoned forever, and although the sun shone upon me, as upon the happy and gay of heart, I saw around me nothing but a dense and frightful darkness, penetrated by no light but the glimmer of two eyes that glared upon me.” p. 160**
 - Victor embraces darkness and solitude. Still inspired by light, it is the evil glint of the creature’s eyes that spur him to action now.



WHAT WERE SOME OF THE REASONS VICTOR CONSIDERS STOPPING HIS SECOND CREATION? (P. 144)

1. “She might become ten thousand times more malignant than her mate, and delight, for its own sake, in murder and wretchedness.”
2. “He had sworn to quit the neighborhood of man and hide himself in deserts; but she had not; and she, who in all probability was to become a thinking and reasoning animal, might refuse to comply with a compact made before her creation.”
3. “They might even hate each other; the creature who already lived, loathed his own deformity; and might he not conceive a greater abhorrence for it when it came before his eyes in the female form?”
4. “She also might turn with disgust from him to the superior beauty of man; she might quit him, and he be again alone, exasperated by the fresh provocation of being deserted by one of his own species.”
5. “...yet one of the first results of those sympathies for which the demon thirsted would be children, and a race of devils would be propagated upon the earth, who might make the very existence of the species of man a condition precarious and full of terror.”





- **“I had resolved in my own mind that to create another like the fiend I had first made would be an act of the basest and most atrocious selfishness.” P.149**
- As discussed in the last section, this decision brings the reader a sense of relieve and even catharsis, since Victor has ultimately made a decision. This means the plot can continue its course toward resolution.
- Overall, do you believe Victor’s decision was the right one? As a group, criticize or defend his decision.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The death of Henry Clerval is tragic, and serves as punishment for Victor's actions. What other role(s) does Clerval serve in this story?
2. If you were Victor at this point in the story, what would your next move be?

