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English 111

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Frankenstein

Revenge is defined as inflicting punishment on a person in return for pain or insult. (Free dictionary.com). Mary Shelley's Frankenstein explores this theme of revenge. The monster seeks his revenge on his creator Victor Frankenstein as well as Victor seeking revenge toward his creation. In the early stages of the story Victor abandons the monster because of his grotesque appearance. Once the monster is abandoned, he attempts to live life amongst the people of England, but he is soon to realize that because of his awful appearance and such dark manner in which he was created society shuns him. He is convinced that Victor is the reason for his loneliness, and wonders why he was ever created. "Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live? Why, in that instant, did I not extinguish the spark of existence which you had so wantonly bestowed?" pg. 124. It is this anguish that the monster feels that compels him to seek revenge on Victor. (Kvanpatten). Feeling alone and hurt our monster sets out to seek revenge on his creator by murdering his youngest brother in Geneva. Following this murder a sibling of Victor's is convicted and executed of the crime. Victor feeling over whelmed with guilt about his knowledge of the monster's involvement in the murder he seeks him out. "I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned at, and kicked, and trampled on," (Shelley, pg. 209). The monster expresses his feeling of being so alone and isolated, so he requests that Victor create a female of his kind to end his loneliness and befriend. He tries to show his side of compassion to the readers, yet he is filled with the feeling of anger, revenge, and loneliness due

to the lack of compassion from outside society. Victor agrees to create another monster and begins his work; however with the thoughts that this second monster could become more vicious than the first he destroys her. Because of this the monster vows to seek his revenge on Victor's wedding night. He continues his retaliation by murdering Victor's best friend Clerval and later his new wife Elizabeth. At one point the monster expresses his intention of revenge "You can blast my other passions, but revenge remains—revenge, henceforth dearer than light of food! I may die, but first you, my tyrant and tormentor, shall curse the sun that gazes on your misery." — *The Monster* (Mary Shelley). He wants Victor to feel his pain and loneliness. After all the crimes the monster commits in an act of vengeance towards his creator, at the end of the story he is found weeping over Victor's deceased body. He loved Victor Frankenstein, for he was the one who created him, but the feeling of loneliness and abandonment over shadowed the monster's true caring and soft personality. Although the theme of revenge for the monster is apparent through the entire story, what I saw was Victor's attempt on revenge towards the monster. He travels to the Arctic where he has tracked the monster too. His path of revenge leads to his downfall and ultimately his death.

Revenge is a horrible dark side inside a person. When you read Mary Shelley's story the emotion evoked by the anguish and determination of the monster to seek retaliation toward someone he expressed that he loved is heart breaking. I truly believe that revenge is an evil disease that infects people in a time of weakness. I have at so many times wanted to inflict pain on those who have wronged my family and I; however nothing that a person can do in return can cure your pain inside. Society creates this stigma of an eye for an eye theory. As humans instead of bracing each other with kindness and compassion we constantly strive towards hatred.

We become so closed minded and stuck in our own thoughts that the minute someone expresses different opinions or appearances we shun them. We create these “monsters” and then wonder why there is so much evil in the world. This story shines a light on a dark area that most people refuse to acknowledge. Most would not freely admit their obsession for retaliation or the urge of revenge they feel. Frankenstein makes me feel compassion for him and hatred at the same time. I agree that Victor deserved to be punished for his wrong doings but who is anyone to play god?

Mary Shelley’s story explores many themes that we deal with on a daily basis but just maybe don’t pay attention to. The most important thing she is trying to portray is that even with the monster’s revenge he was grief stricken when Victor dies at the end of the story! No matter what feelings push you to rash decisions, revenge is not a way to right the wrongs.