

Frankenstein

Model Answers



- **Four Model Answers**
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- **Character Quotes**
- **Context & Themes**

Model Answers

Model Answer 1

Read the following extract from Chapter 15 and then answer the question that follows. In this extract the Monster decides to approach the cottage and the people who live there for the first time.

Their happiness was not decreased by the absence of summer. They loved, and sympathised with one another; and their joys, depending on each other, were not interrupted by the casualties that took place around them. The more I saw of them, the greater became my desire to claim their protection and kindness; my heart yearned to be known and loved by these amiable creatures: to see their sweet looks directed towards me with affection was the utmost limit of my ambition. I dared not think that they would turn from me with disdain and horror. The poor that stopped at their door were never driven away. I asked, it is true, for greater treasures than a little food or rest: I required kindness and sympathy; but I did not believe myself utterly unworthy of it.

The winter advanced, and an entire revolution of the seasons had taken place since I awoke into life. My attention, at this time, was solely directed towards my plan of introducing myself into the cottage of my protectors. I revolved many projects; but that on which I finally fixed was, to enter the dwelling when the blind old man should be alone. I had sagacity enough to discover that the unnatural hideousness of my person was the chief object of horror with those who had formerly beheld me. My voice, although harsh, had nothing terrible in it; I thought, therefore, that if, in the absence of his children, I could gain the good-will and mediation of the old De Lacey, I might, by his means, be tolerated by my younger protectors.'

Starting with this extract, write about how Shelley presents the importance of love and acceptance to society. Write about:

- **how Shelley presents the monster's need to be loved and accepted in this extract**
- **how Shelley presents the importance of love and acceptance to society in the novel as a whole.**

In the epistolary Gothic novel "Frankenstein", Mary Shelley presents love and acceptance as being an important and basic human need that is essential to all the characters, including the Monster. In the extract, we witness the Monster's need and desire for love and acceptance from the DeLacey family, who he secretly observes and yearns to meet and be accepted by. Moreover as elsewhere in the novel, we find that both the Monster and Frankenstein himself experience a fundamental need to receive love and acceptance from their families and society – and the ultimate deaths and demise of Frankenstein's immediate family as a result of the Monster's relentless

good at heart however it was society's cruel and evil treatment of him that made him a murderous killer, meaning he is a victim of society's treatment.

Elsewhere in the novel, we develop a deep sense of pathos for the Monster. Once Frankenstein created him through science, he rejects and runs away from him and the Monster is left to raise itself in the wild. As he develops knowledge of his creator, he becomes angry and bitter. He confronts Frankenstein as he angrily states that "you, my creator, detest and spurn me." The negative verbs "detest" and "spurn" make us realise the Monster is a victim to be pitied as the real "monster" is his father, Victor Frankenstein, who refuses to care for his creation. We become disgusted with the fact that Frankenstein selfishly used science to satisfy his intellectual curiosity as well as his ambition to create new life, however once he did he acted selfishly again by rejecting and running away from his creation simply because he was repulsed by the Monster's appearance. This is akin to a parent creating a child and refusing to look after their child, which is an immoral and reprehensible act. Indeed from a social perspective, the Monster's demise into being an evil and cruel being mirrors many children in society who are abandoned by their parents hence they become social delinquents – however we come to see their terrible actions as those of victims who simply have been abandoned by their parents. Thus this makes us realise the Monster is simply a victim to be pitied, as the real evil "monster" is Frankenstein as he rejected his creation and acted irresponsibly by abandoning it.

Finally, we witness that as the Monster develops alone and attempts to rescue a drowning child, the villagers who see him attack him rather than praise his heroic actions. The Monster gradually learns that society is extremely superficial and people will base their judgements of others' characters solely based on their external appearance, rather than their internal attributes. This makes him reflect on "the barbarity of man" and he consequently "vowed eternal vengeance and hatred to all mankind." The animalistic depiction of man as "barbaric" makes us as readers reflect on the cruelty of society. We consider the practice of physiognomy, where many Victorians judged others based on their appearance as well as modern social prejudices of others based on their appearance and we realise the Monster simply reveals the ugly, prejudicial side of society. To be sure, the Monster was good at heart however he was corrupted by society's horrific treatment and rejection of him, which made him murderous and vengeful. This therefore presents the Monster as a character to be pitied as we are forced to look at society through fresh lens and realise the downside of prejudice and judging others based on appearance.

To conclude, although the Monster's murderous actions in the novel make us revolted by him to an extent, as the novel develops and we gain a detailed perspective into the Monster's reasons for his actions we realise that ultimately he is a character who is deeply flawed but one who we can pity as readers. Although the Monster's cruel actions are reprehensible, we learn that it is society who has corrupted him and we realise that it is society's cruel treatment of the Monster, based on people's rejection of him simply due to his appearance, that causes him to become evil and debased. This essay has examined to what extent we can hold the Monster as responsible for his actions, as well as the greater extent to which we can pity him and see him as a victim.