

Frankenstein Letters



Essential Question



- How do authors use setting and point of view to create an atmosphere that develops the major themes in their work?
- Atmosphere: Feeling or mood, usually created through descriptive details and connotative language
- Theme: Central idea or insight of a work of literature



- This novel begins with four letters from an explorer Robert Walton to his sister, Margaret Saville
- Walton is a well-to-do Englishman with a passion for seafaring
- He is the captain of a ship headed on a dangerous voyage to the North Pole

Letter 1 Summary



- Walton's childhood
- Walton tells his sister of the preparations leading up to his departure and his burning desire to accomplish “some great purpose”—discovering a northern passage to the Pacific, revealing the source of the Earth's magnetism, or simply setting foot on undiscovered territory.

Purpose of Letter 1



- Letter 1 sets the scene for the telling of the stranger's narrative
- Walton's letters introduce an important character—Robert Walton himself
- Walton and Victor have a lot in common

Letters 2 ,3 and 4



- Introduce the idea of loss, loneliness and despair(a stranger rescued at sea becomes Walton's friend)
- Introduce the idea of dauntless ambition
- Allusions to the works of Homer, Shakespeare, Coleridge and Milton illustrate Frankenstein's aspirations

Letters 2 ,3 and 4



- The danger of acquiring knowledge
- “You seek for knowledge and wisdom, as I once did; and I ardently hope that the gratification of your wishes may not be a serpent to sting you, as mine has been.” (Stranger-Frankenstein)

Romanticism Characteristics



- Nature elevates the state of the human soul
- Love for the exotic
- Emotions over reason
- Imagination

Walton Vs. Victor Frankenstein



Robert Walton

- Through his journey to the North Pole, Walton wants to benefit humankind and also achieve personal glory.
- Walton passionate, determined and sacrificing.
- Walton is idealistic, ambitious, courageous, intelligent, and considerate of others.

Victor Frankenstein

- Victor Frankenstein was involved in a search for knowledge but lost everything because of it.
- Victor has achieved knowledge and wisdom.
- Victor was passionate and is losing hope now; he warns Walton about his mistakes.
- Victor is determined, intelligent, passionate, gentle, sad, obsessed

Gothic Lit. Genre



- Developed in the 18th century and was devoted to tales of dark supernatural forces and horror
- Name developed from the Medieval Gothic Cathedra and the barbaric Germanic tribe, The Goths
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Gothic Lit. Characteristics



- Eerie setting such as graveyard, ruins, haunted churches, and houses, etc
- Multiple narratives
- Monsters, demons, angels, and satan may appear as characters

Gothic Lit Motifs



- Blood
- Demons, witches, and angels represent conflicting forces in the human soul
- Fallen hero turns to a monster or confront a monster who is his double
- Like Satan, the fallen hero violates the rules of the universe
- Doppelganger represent a split or double personality
- Dreams and visions symbolize hidden truths in the character's unconscious
- Graveyards that symbolize confrontation between humans and forces of the universe
- Haunted houses symbolize a psychological character
- Blood for life/death; innocence vs. guilt
- Murder for innocence/guilt



**DISCUSS HOW THE SETTING CREATES THE
MOOD OF THIS NOVEL SO FAR**