



ELA Virtual Learning

English IV

April 28, 2020



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Lesson: April 28, 2020

Objectives/Learning Targets:

- Evaluate how an author's choices to structure specific parts of a text contribute to a text's overall meaning and its aesthetic impact
- Analyze a case in which recognizing point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is implied.
- I can explain my thinking in a well-organized and developed written response using relevant textual evidence.

BELL RINGER

Consider this quote, then answer the following question on a sheet of paper or Google Doc that you will be using for the remainder of this lesson.

If absolute power corrupts absolutely, does absolute powerlessness make you pure?

~Harry Shearer - actor, voice actor, comedian, writer, musician, radio host,
director and producer

Background

Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was an English novelist best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*, published in 1818. In the novel, the brilliant scientist Victor Frankenstein has finally accomplished his lifelong dream: he has created intelligent life in his laboratory. But soon after the creature awakens, Victor realizes he has created a monster and quickly flees. The monster vows to destroy Victor and his livelihood. In this excerpt told from the monster's point of view, the monster confronts Victor and scolds him for his neglect. As you read, think about - "Is revenge ever justified?" and "How does power corrupt?"

Learn

- Read excerpt by clicking on link [An Excerpt from Frankenstein.](#)
- As you read, take notes on how the excerpt's point of view informs the characterization of the monster.
- After you read, answer the following questions in your Google Doc or on your paper.

Question 1 Part A

Which of the following best describes a central theme of the text?

- A. Death may not a permanent state of being and can perhaps be reversed.
- B. A person needs structure and support in order to form a good conscience and proper identity.
- C. Hatred should always be met with hatred, and injury met with revenge.
- D. Playing with life is a power that corrupts and can have terrible consequences.

Question 1 Part A Answer

D. Playing with life is a power that corrupts and can have terrible consequences.

Answers A,B - These things happened in the book, but were not central themes because they were not significant.

Answer C - This is the opposite of what the author is trying to inform.

Question 2 Part B

Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “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?” (Paragraph 1)
- B. “There was none among the myriads of men that existed who would pity or assist me....” (Paragraph 3)
- C. “Inflamed by pain, I vowed eternal hatred and vengeance to all mankind.” (Paragraph 20)
- D. “I too can create desolation; my enemy is not invulnerable; this death will carry despair to him, and a thousand other miseries shall torment and destroy him.” (Paragraph 32)

Question 2 Part B Answer

A. “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?” (Paragraph 1)

Central theme - Playing with life is a power that corrupts and can have terrible consequences. The monster is cursing the doctor for creating him.

Answers B and C refer to mankind, not the doctor.

Answer D would deal with revenge.

Question 3

How does the De Lacey family's rejection of the monster drive the plot of the excerpt?

- A. The De Lacey family's rejection drives the monster into the woods, where he vows to live alone for the rest of his life.
- B. The De Lacey family's rejection directly provokes the monster into killing the little boy and others.
- C. The De Lacey family's rejection gives the monster the idea of having his own companion.
- D. The De Lacey family's rejection further provokes his feelings of despair and of hatred towards mankind.

Question 3 Answer

D. The De Lacey family's rejection further provokes his feelings of despair and of hatred towards mankind.

Answers A and B do not drive the plot; they are merely events.
Answer C is false.

Question 4 Part A

Which of the following best describes how the language of the excerpt contributes to the tone?

- A. The language of the excerpt is often dramatic and passionate, speaking to the monster's own passionate emotions and tone.
- B. The language of the excerpt is long-winded, mimicking Frankenstein's educated speech and contributing to the mocking, harsh tone.
- C. The language of the excerpt is inconsistent and jumbled, representative of the monster's mixed emotions and contributing to the sad, lost tone.
- D. The language of the excerpt is short and terse, communicating the monster's hatred and angry tone.

Question 4 Part A Answer

A. The language of the excerpt is often dramatic and passionate, speaking to the monster's own passionate emotions and tone.

The author's use of language is not long winded, inconsistent and jumbled, nor short and terse.

Question 4 Part B

Which of the following quotes best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “As the night advanced, a fierce wind arose from the woods and quickly dispersed the clouds that had loitered in the heavens; the blast tore along like a mighty avalanche and produced a kind of insanity in my spirits that burst all bounds of reason and reflection.” (Paragraph 13)
- B. “But how was I to direct myself? I knew that I must travel in a southwesterly direction to reach my destination, but the sun was my only guide.” (Paragraph 16)
- C. “I was oppressed by fatigue and hunger and far too unhappy to enjoy the gentle breezes of evening or the prospect of the sun setting behind the stupendous mountains of Jura.” (Paragraph 24)
- D. “Awake, fairest, thy lover is near—he who would give his life but to obtain one look of affection from thine eyes; my beloved, awake!” (Paragraph 35)

Question 4 Part B Answer

- A. *“As the night advanced, a fierce wind arose from the woods and quickly dispersed the clouds that had loitered in the heavens; the blast tore along like a mighty avalanche and produced a kind of insanity in my spirits that burst all bounds of reason and reflection.”*
(Paragraph 13)

Words such as fierce, blast, mighty avalanche, insanity and bursts all denote intensity and passion.

Reflection

In your notes or Google Doc, respond to this prompt:

Go back to the Bell Ringer regarding power and corruption. After reading today's lesson, answer these two questions.

- Is revenge ever justified?
- How does power corrupt?

Additional Resource

Watch this video clip of the movie “Frankenstein.”
Note how Hollywood’s interpretation of monster as opposed to the novel’s characterization.

