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<div align="center">The Psychology of Frankenstein (change) ←</div>

Do you ever wonder why Anakin Skywalker decided to join the dark side of the force? Do you ever wonder why the Joker has the desire to create chaos? Basically the common themes here are the choices that people make. Isn't it interesting to know why people make certain decisions? When you ask questions like these, in this case, you're psychoanalyzing someone trying to comprehend their choice. When analyzing literature, there are a plethora of ways to approach a story. By using the psychological approach, the reader can gain a deeper understanding of the characters and sometimes even the author by studying how and why they made certain choices and the thought processes that went into the decision. This includes applying theories from psychologists and asking deep rooted questions that the reader might need to do some digging to answer. Using Freud's theories on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein,* I've concluded that Victor's downfall started when his mother died, repression is used by several characters and as symbolism, and Frankenstein's monster represents what happens if we are neglected of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs. Also completely opposite of her novel's main character, Shelley was able to turn her tragedy into triumph with this story.

I think I speak for most when I say that our mothers mean the world to us. I mean we'd do anything for them and Victor is no exception. Frankenstein described her as having "tender caresses" (Shelley 40). The point is that he really loved his mother. I for one was surprised that he didn't have more of a reaction when he got the news. Although it would make sense that his mother passing away would set off a chain reaction of events in Frankenstein's life that would ultimately lead to his own demise. Even though Victor didn't react like we thought, he was subconsciously grieving and mourning for his mother. We know this because of Frankenstein's obsession with life and death which he got into at Ingolstadt soon after his mother passes. "So much has been done, exclaimed the soul of Frankenstein-more, far more, will I achieve; treading in the steps already marked, I will pioneer a new way, explore unknown powers, and unfold the deepest mysteries of creation" (Shelley 68). Understandably he is uneasy about the loss, but the way he chooses to get over it is pretty over the top. Victor wants to learn a lot of information about life and death because his ultimate goal is to bring his mother back from the dead. In between however, Victor tests out his new found knowledge on pieces of corps that he dug up from the graveyard. He successfully reanimates the corps, but in doing so he seals his own fate.

Frankenstein seemed to repress or distance himself from a lot of things that began pretty much after his mother died. I have reason to believe that Victor represses the female gender as a whole. One of Freud's theories talks about the psychosexual stages and how intercourse is very important for a person's physiological health. For Frankenstein to do something as abnormal as create life without the presence of a woman shows just how distant he is from females. All of these things stem from the recent death of his mother and shows how Frankenstein is still

repressing her passing. He's choosing to ignore women as a whole for the fear that he might be reminded of her. Perhaps the absence of a woman is another reason that Frankenstein's creation didn't turn out like he expected among others. Frankenstein's monster is used as a being a symbol for the anger and ravenous thoughts that we as humans repress everyday. "I will revenge my injuries; if I cannot inspire love, I will cause fear, and chiefly towards you my archenemy, because my creator, do I swear inextinguishable hatred" (Shelley 144). Here Frankenstein's monster can no longer hold in his hatred for his creator and he just lets out all his emotion. These traits are often deemed unacceptable by others, but they are conveyed through the creature.
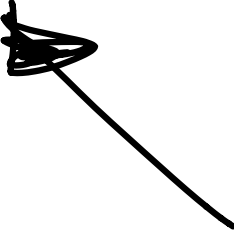
(Come back to this)

　　　　If you've read the story of Frankenstein, then you know why the monster did all those horrible things to his creator. I want to take a look at Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs for a moment though. At the bottom of the pyramid we have the basic needs such as shelter, food, etc. Now to move up on the pyramid you must have met the basic needs first. From the monster's *delete* ⌐ *re-word* perspective, did he have his basic needs met? Food however became scare, and I often spent the whole day searching for a few acorns to assuage the pangs of hunger" (Shelley 138). Clearly from the moment Frankenstein's monster was reanimated, his basic needs were not met. This leads me to believe that since the monster could not get through the first level, could he move up on the pyramid? Safety is the next one up: "In a transport if fury, he dashed me to the ground and struck me violently with a a stick" (Shelley 243). The monster wasn't safe anywhere he went because of his appearance which frightened just about everyone. Let's try and go up once more

on the pyramid just to be sure. Let's see if the monster ever felt love or that he belonged in the story: "No sympathy may I ever find... the feelings of happiness and affection with which my whole being overflowed... but now that happiness and affection are turned into bitter and loathing despair" (Shelley 100

). The point of this was to show that Frankenstein's monster is a product of what could happen if we as humans don't have the simplest needs met. Frankenstein's monster was only a monster because of Victor's below standard parenting and the way he was treated. We as a society have the power to create these "monsters" and we have the power to make sure no one is treated like this.

(Paragraph about Mary Shelley's trials and tribulations and how she overcame them with a successful book in Frankenstein).

- add conclusion
- use scholarly article

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