

Frankenstein quotes, in plain words

Every big quote from the book. Who says it, where, and what it means. Start with the twenty marked with a dot.

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Learn these twenty first

Short. Easy to remember. Between them they cover every theme and every main character.

- **Beware, for I am fearless and therefore powerful.**

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [revenge](#)

Victor destroys the half-made female. The creature has nothing to lose now. That makes him dangerous.

- **It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils.**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#)

The famous first line of Chapter 5. The creature comes alive on a wet November night.

- **I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart.**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#) · [responsibility](#)

He wanted this more than anything. The moment it is done, he is disgusted. He runs away.

- **the beauty of the dream vanished**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#)

The dream was beautiful. The real thing is not.

- **Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example, how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge**

Victor · [Chapter 4](#) · [knowledge](#) · [ambition](#)

Victor's warning. Do not do what I did. Knowing too much is dangerous.

- **I ought to be thy Adam**

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [creation](#) · [responsibility](#)

The creature asks to be treated like a first son, not a devil.

- **Beware, for I am fearless and therefore powerful.**

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [revenge](#)

Victor destroys the half-made female. The creature has nothing to lose now. That makes him dangerous.

- **I will be with you on your wedding - night.**

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [revenge](#) · [family](#)

The threat. Victor thinks it means his own death. It means Elizabeth's.

- **Believe me, Frankenstein, I was benevolent; my soul glowed with love and humanity**

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [prejudice](#) · [isolation](#)

The creature says he was good. He wanted to love. People made him what he is.

- **I am malicious because I am miserable.**

Creature · [Chapter 17](#) · [revenge](#) · [isolation](#) · [prejudice](#)

I am bad because I am unhappy. Make me happy and I will be good. His whole argument in six words.

- **Farewell, Walton! Seek happiness in tranquillity**

Victor · [Chapter 24](#) · [ambition](#)

His last words. Then he dies on the ship.

- **Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change.**

Victor · [Chapter 23](#) · [family](#) · [isolation](#)

After Elizabeth is killed. Losing everything at once is the worst pain there is.

- **the miserable monster whom I had created**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#) · [prejudice](#)

Victor's first name for his creation. Monster. He decides what it is before it has done anything.

- **All men hate the wretched; how, then, must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things!**

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [prejudice](#) · [isolation](#)

Everyone hates the unlucky. And nobody is as unlucky as him.

- **Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live?**

Creature · [Chapter 16](#) · [creation](#) · [revenge](#) · [responsibility](#)

After the De Lacey drive him out. He curses Victor for making him and leaving him.

- I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned at, and kicked, and trampled on.

Creature · [Walton's last letters](#) · [isolation](#) · [prejudice](#) · [responsibility](#)

His last speech, over Victor's body. Abandoned. Kicked. Something that should not have been born.

- Seek happiness in tranquillity and avoid ambition

Victor · [Chapter 24](#) · [ambition](#) · [knowledge](#)

Victor's last advice to Walton. Be calm. Do not want too much. He did not take it himself.

- Frankenstein! you belong then to my enemy

Creature · [Chapter 16](#) · [revenge](#) · [family](#)

The creature meets little William and learns his name. He kills him for it.

- Polluted by crimes and torn by the bitterest remorse, where can I find rest but in death?

Creature · [Walton's last letters](#) · [revenge](#) · [isolation](#)

Nowhere left to go. He will burn himself on the ice.

Every quote, in order

All 42, in the order they happen.

Walton's letters 4 quotes

Chapters 1 to 10: Victor's story 17 quotes

Chapters 11 to 16: the Creature's story 5 quotes

Walton's letters

What may not be expected in a country of eternal light?

Walton · [Letter 1](#) · [ambition](#) · [knowledge](#) · [nature](#)

Walton dreams of the North Pole as a place of endless light. He wants glory. So did Victor.

I have no friend

Walton · [Letter 2](#) · [isolation](#)

Walton is on a ship full of men and has nobody to talk to. Loneliness starts the book.

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

Victor · [Letter 4](#) · [knowledge](#) · [ambition](#)

Victor warns Walton. Wanting to know too much can bite you like a snake. It bit him.

We are unfashioned creatures, but half made up

Victor · [Letter 4](#) · [family](#) · [isolation](#)

People are unfinished on their own. They need a friend to complete them. Victor to Walton, about Clerval.

Chapters 1 to 10: Victor's story

The world was to me a secret which I desired to divine.

Victor · [Chapter 2](#) · [knowledge](#) · [ambition](#)

As a boy Victor wanted to know how everything worked. That wanting is where it starts.

Natural philosophy is the genius that has regulated my fate

Victor · [Chapter 2](#) · [knowledge](#)

Science decided his life, he says. Not him.

So much has been done, exclaimed the soul of Frankenstein—
more, far more, will I achieve

Victor · [Chapter 3](#) · [ambition](#) · [knowledge](#)

Others have done a lot. He will do more. He wants to be first and biggest.

● Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example,
how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge

Victor · [Chapter 4](#) · [knowledge](#) · [ambition](#)

Victor's warning. Do not do what I did. Knowing too much is dangerous.

A new species would bless me as its creator and source

Victor · [Chapter 4](#) · [creation](#) · [ambition](#)

He imagines a whole new race worshipping him. He wants to be a god.

- **It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils.**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#)

The famous first line of Chapter 5. The creature comes alive on a wet November night.

- **I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart.**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#) · [responsibility](#)

He wanted this more than anything. The moment it is done, he is disgusted. He runs away.

- **the miserable monster whom I had created**

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#) · [prejudice](#)

Victor's first name for his creation. Monster. He decides what it is before it has done anything.

His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#) · [prejudice](#)

The creature is ugly. Thin yellow skin, black lips, watery eyes. Victor cannot look at him.

I felt the bitterness of disappointment

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#)

Two years of work. The result makes him sick. He goes to bed.

I beheld the wretch the miserable monster whom I had created

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [prejudice](#) · [creation](#)

The creature comes to his bed and reaches out. Victor sees only a wretch and runs.

• the beauty of the dream vanished

Victor · [Chapter 5](#) · [creation](#)

The dream was beautiful. The real thing is not.

• Believe me, Frankenstein, I was benevolent; my soul glowed with love and humanity

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [prejudice](#) · [isolation](#)

The creature says he was good. He wanted to love. People made him what he is.

Remember that I am thy creature; I ought to be thy Adam, but I am rather the fallen angel

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [creation](#) · [responsibility](#) · [isolation](#)

I should have been your Adam, your first man. Instead you treat me like the devil.

• All men hate the wretched; how, then, must I be hated, who am miserable beyond all living things!

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [prejudice](#) · [isolation](#)

Everyone hates the unlucky. And nobody is as unlucky as him.

- **I ought to be thy Adam**

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [creation](#) · [responsibility](#)

The creature asks to be treated like a first son, not a devil.

I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend.

Creature · [Chapter 10](#) · [prejudice](#) · [isolation](#)

I was good. Being miserable turned me bad. Make me happy again.

Chapters 11 to 16: the Creature's story

Was I, then, a monster, a blot upon the earth, from which all men fled and whom all men disowned?

Creature · [Chapter 13](#) · [prejudice](#) · [isolation](#)

He sees himself in water for the first time and learns what he looks like. He asks if he really is a monster.

- **Cursed, cursed creator! Why did I live?**

Creature · [Chapter 16](#) · [creation](#) · [revenge](#) · [responsibility](#)

After the De Lacey's drive him out. He curses Victor for making him and leaving him.

I, like the arch-fiend, bore a hell within me

Creature · [Chapter 16](#) · [revenge](#) · [isolation](#)

Like the devil, he carries hell around inside him.

- **Frankenstein! you belong then to my enemy**

Creature · [Chapter 16](#) · [revenge](#) · [family](#)

The creature meets little William and learns his name. He kills him for it.

I am alone and miserable; man will not associate with me

Creature · [Chapter 16](#) · [isolation](#)

Nobody will be with him. That is why he wants a companion made like him.

Chapters 17 to 24: the end

- **I am malicious because I am miserable.**

Creature · [Chapter 17](#) · [revenge](#) · [isolation](#) · [prejudice](#)

I am bad because I am unhappy. Make me happy and I will be good. His whole argument in six words.

You must create a female for me

Creature · [Chapter 17](#) · [isolation](#) · [creation](#)

He asks for one companion. Then he will go away for ever.

- **Beware, for I am fearless and therefore powerful.**

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [revenge](#)

Victor destroys the half-made female. The creature has nothing to lose now. That makes him dangerous.

- **I will be with you on your wedding - night.**

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [revenge](#) · [family](#)

The threat. Victor thinks it means his own death. It means Elizabeth's.

You are my creator, but I am your master; obey!

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [creation](#) · [revenge](#)

The roles flip. The made thing gives the orders.

Man," I cried, "how ignorant art thou in thy pride of wisdom!

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [knowledge](#) · [ambition](#)

You think you are wise. You know nothing. The creature to his maker.

Slave, I before reasoned with you, but you have proved yourself unworthy of my condescension.

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [revenge](#)

He tried talking. Victor broke the deal. Now the creature calls him slave.

You have destroyed the work which you began

Creature · [Chapter 20](#) · [responsibility](#) · [revenge](#)

Victor tore up the female. The creature's last hope is gone.

● **Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change.**

Victor · [Chapter 23](#) · [family](#) · [isolation](#)

After Elizabeth is killed. Losing everything at once is the worst pain there is.

● **Seek happiness in tranquillity and avoid ambition**

Victor · [Chapter 24](#) · [ambition](#) · [knowledge](#)

Victor's last advice to Walton. Be calm. Do not want too much. He did not take it himself.

- **Farewell, Walton! Seek happiness in tranquillity**

Victor · [Chapter 24](#) · [ambition](#)

His last words. Then he dies on the ship.

the fallen angel becomes a malignant devil

Victor · [Chapter 24](#) · [prejudice](#) · [revenge](#)

An angel that falls turns into a devil. Victor's view of the creature, in the creature's own words from earlier.

I have lost everything and cannot begin life anew

Victor · [Chapter 24](#) · [family](#) · [isolation](#)

His family is dead. There is nothing to rebuild with.

Walton's last letters

- **I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned at, and kicked, and trampled on.**

Creature · [Walton's last letters](#) · [isolation](#) · [prejudice](#) · [responsibility](#)

His last speech, over Victor's body. Abandoned. Kicked. Something that should not have been born.

- **Polluted by crimes and torn by the bitterest remorse, where can I find rest but in death?**

Creature · [Walton's last letters](#) · [revenge](#) · [isolation](#)

Nowhere left to go. He will burn himself on the ice.

I have devoted my creator, the select specimen of all that is worthy of love and admiration among men, to misery

Creature · [Walton's last letters](#) · [revenge](#) · [responsibility](#)

The creature admits he destroyed a man worth loving. He does not say Victor deserved it.
