

In both Persepolis and Frankenstein there is a common theme repeatedly shown by mistakes made from the main characters that innocence and inexperience can ultimately lead to bad decisions. Between these two books the main characters start off as innocent children with an eager to learn. As an example in Frankenstein the main character, Victor, wants to simply create life. This decision of his comes from a place of innocence but leads him down a very dark path. Not only does he end up hurting those around him, but he also hurts himself. Once he gained a better understanding of what creating life meant he realized how, "the beauty of the dream had vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled [his] heart" (43). This relates back to the theme because it represents how his innocence prevented him from understanding what he was getting himself into. The consequence of his innocence affects Victor for the rest of his life.

Frankenstein explains how the monsters unknown knowledge of the world leads himself and Victor into suffering. Through the book everyone is always in pain or unsatisfied. The monster did not understand what he was capable of and neither did Victor. Carrying on to the end of the book Walton must still look for the monster to "satisfy [his] vengeance" (155). No one was ever able to release the pain and Victor spent his whole life attached to this pain.

In Frankenstein, Shelley also exhibits a suffering main character in order to <sup>snow how</sup> <sup>suffering</sup> shape their identity. Victor had to suffer many deaths, and likely one of the hardest to endure was the death of his best friend, Henry Clerval. Pitched into despair after learning of his death, Victor was "on the point of death", sickened by

In Persepolis, Marji's family lives in Iran during a time of war, which leads to her perspective on life being affected by the repression she faces. She also learns about the suffering other people have gone through at a very young age. She hears about Ahmadi who was tortured and "cut to pieces" while in prison (VII.52.1.). Satrapi's brutal description of what goes on during war explains to the reader how it affected Marji. Hearing about such torture eliminated her childhood experience and caused her to be more mature at a young age.

In Frankenstein, Victor's innocence makes him unaware of his action's consequences. Since he hasn't had any major issues due to his decisions, he believes that he can be as dangerous as he wants without any repercussions. Victor started his creation with "eagerness, wonder and hope in [his] eyes" because he doesn't think about the possible outcomes of his creation (31). Through out the story his creation, the monster, kills his friends and family, torturing Victor. These events, I believe, cause Victor to lose his innocence.

To begin with, although both Frankenstein and Persepolis grapple with the idea of repression and suffering, Shelley makes use of <sup>Frankenstein and his creature's</sup> isolation to convey that cruelty can fuel hate. Both of the lead characters in her story experience loneliness, though at different times. Victor, who was once surrounded by loving family and friends, is filled with rage when they are taken from him. The creature, on the other hand, felt isolation firsthand, from his own creator. After constantly being shunned by those around him, "[he] <sup>decides to make a vow</sup> [he] ~~made~~ <sup>TANT BIEN</sup> [he] ~~made~~ <sup>Y A BLO</sup> a ~~vow~~ of] eternal hatred and vengeance to all mankind" (157). Later on in the book, Victor makes a similar vow, as he "[vows] vengeance; again [does he] devote [the creature], miserable fiend, to torture and death" (233). They have both felt pain and suffering, mainly from each other. In light of these <sup>cruel</sup> pains, they both turn to revenge and more harm rather than self-reflection and open-mindedness. A sorry ending befalls the two sides of one coin, all from the same miseries. The experience of loneliness can easily fuel hate, which can be seen in the two character's story.

Throughout Frankenstein, Shelley exploring the connection between identity and innocence/childhood by showing how good or bad interactions at a young age can shape how you act in the future. Shelley chooses to show interactions Victor had with his education and his family to create a self-absorbed and "miserable" character that is Victor. Victor's youth experiences made him create the monster which led to the death of his close friends and family. The monsters violence was created by having no "friends or relations... no father, no mother" which meant he had no past. (86). Childhood shapes characters which is why the monster was so violent after finding out he had no past. Both Victor and the monster's identity were shaped by their innocence and childhood.

By exploring feelings he discovers a sense of love for this family. However, the monster's innocence of the world becomes his greatest downfall. Later on he watches as a little girl falls into ~~the~~<sup>fast</sup> rapid stream" (185). The monster rescues her but is met with violence. He is confused why this was his "reward of ... benevolence" (186). His innocence from the beginning of life leads him astray to think everyone would treat him with <sup>the</sup> same respect as they showed one-another. His adversity then turns to revenge on mankind and tormenting himself and his creator.

Similarly, Mary Shelley's Frankenstein explores the idea of innocence through Victor's monster. Immediately after the creature is given life it describes itself as "a poor, helpless, miserable wretch" (148). He is confused and alone and entirely innocent. As he learns the ways of life through the DeLaceys' he learns important lessons like sadness, he asks "what did their tears imply?" (157).

Setup: Makes use of Marji's goals and aspirations] to display how the human experience and how identity connects to her goals. Marji: stated that she was officially a grown-up when she stated that "[This first cigarette, I Kissed childhood goodbye" (XV.117.9). Every human encounters changes in their life. Marji: thinks she is ready to be a grown-up after smoking her first cigarette, but in reality, Marji: just has strong opinions on the war and seeks to change. Marji: also felt strong opinions on war as when she said that she "wants to fight" (X.79.6). Setup: Marji: "blood was boiling" and she wanted to help serve her country during the second Arab invasion. Staying true to one's goals and aspirations can lead to more insightful views about society.

In Persepolis and Frankenstein, Satrapi and Shelley detail main characters who undergo suffering to suggest that one's identity is shaped by the hardships they overcome.

In Persepolis, Satrapi uses Marji's suffering to show how identity is shaped. After Anoosh is executed, Marji tells god to "get out of [her] life" because his death had such a great effect on her (IX.70.4). This shows a very noticeable change in her disposition toward God because she had always relied on and trusted him until now, where she feels like she has <sup>been</sup> irrevocably betrayed. Furthermore, Marji seems to act very mature for her age, partially due to the fact that she was living "in a nightmare", surrounded by war on all sides while just trying to live a normal childhood (XVII.140.1).

In Persepolis, Marjane Satrapi emphasizes the change of her own behavior with age to convey that a child is impressionable when they are inexperienced and have unformed opinions. As a "child", she is young and naive and because of this, she makes bad decisions. "With the first cigarette [she] kissed childhood goodbye", believing that she was now a grown-up (XV.117.9). Marji believes that smoking helps lead to freedom and justification because she is not old enough to understand what it really represents.