

Student Essay on Frankenstein: Tone Via Literary Device

Frankenstein: Tone Via Literary Device by Mary Shelley

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Contents

Student Essay on Frankenstein: Tone Via Literary Device.....	1
Contents.....	2
Essay.....	3

Essay

Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* applies many emotions through literary devices which influence the tone of the novel. On page 25 Victor Frankenstein, the main character, explains his fascination with learning and the trivial aspects of life.

"Curiosity, earnest research to learn the hidden laws of nature, gladness akin to rapture, as they were unfolded to [him], are among the earliest sensations [he] can remember....It was the secrets of heaven and earth that [he] desired to learn; and whether it was the outward substance of things or the inner spirit of nature and the mysterious soul of man that occupied [him], still [his] inquiries were directed to the metaphysical, or in its highest sense, the physical secrets of the world."

In this passage alone three literary elements stand out. Shelly often uses comparisons to parallel the triviality of Victor's thoughts. The author also manipulates diction invoking powerful emotion. Mary Shelly not only creates an amazing literary work, but also parallels that work with literary elements that follow the novel's theme.

Statements that compare and contrast appear in this passage often. "Curiosity, earnest research ... [vs.] gladness akin to rapture..." "...the outer substance of things [vs.] the inner spirit of nature..." Such contrast from a literary standpoint doesn't convey much to the reader, but because the book itself deals almost entirely with self discovery and the obvious difference between good and evil. Even the idea of contrasting the appearance and true nature of things appear numerous times.

Shelly's diction, though, resonates throughout her writing. Words and phrases like "curiosity, rapture, secrets of heaven, and substance" invoke such strong sensations in the reader. Practically feeling *Frankenstein's* emotions means everything to this novel. The tone of the entire novel reflects intense emotion. The reader can tell *Frankenstein's* every mood, not only by what he "says", but by the words Shelly uses.

Frankenstein, as a novel, exemplifies many literary devices that accent the tone of the story. Emotion and language consume the book. Shelly's amazing prose, diction, and syntax make *Frankenstein* amazing. Emotion, confusion and discovery consume this novel. Shelly makes that apparent through literary devices as well as the story those literary devices combine to create. Emotion can be written in a story as well as a single word. Shelly displays that with comparisons and clever word choice.