

Frankenstein Court Case



Team Victor

Lawyers: Taylor Worthington & Faye Gauthier

Ethicist: Sebrina Petersen

Psychologist: Gabrielle Bayer

Robert Walton: Alex Garcia

William Frankenstein: Nathan Felix

Elizabeth Frankenstein: Abigail Petrangelo

Victor Frankenstein: Justin Lucier

Table of Contents

Opening Statements: 3-4

Direct Examinations

Robert Walton: 5

William Frankenstein: 6-7

Psychologist: 8-9

Ethicist: 10

Elizabeth Frankenstein: 11

Victor Frankenstein: 12-14

Cross-Examinations

Psychiatrist: 15

Ethicist: 16

Henry Clerval: 17

Justine: 18

Mr. Delacey: 19

Creature: 20-22

Follow Up Questions: 23

Closing Statements: 24-26

Opening Statement - Taylor Worthington

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

I ask that each of you think back to a time when you wanted one thing more than anything. You worked hard for something that you were passionate about. Now, can you imagine the importance of your goal if you had the opportunity to change the world forever? If you had the capacity or knowledge to complete a scientific breakthrough, so revolutionary, that it could help millions? Wouldn't you do it? This is the exact situation of that my client Victor Frankenstein was in.

To begin, at a young age he knew exactly what he was interested in, science and philosophy. Before he went away to school at the University of Ingolstadt, however, his mother grew dangerously ill and died tragically of scarlet fever. The impact that this death had on his family and him was immeasurable. His father had lost his other half, his adopted cousin and two younger brothers lost their dear mother. Victor knew at this point that he did not want others to feel the pain that his family had endured. His motivations were purely to better the world and to help his fellow humans.

At his time at Ingolstadt, Victor gathered the scientific knowledge to create life. In his words, he was reanimating life. Immediately after his experiment was successful, he grew ashamed of his work, Victor suffered an emotional and physical breakdown; he was very ill for months, unable to care for himself never mind anyone else.

This brings me to the first accusation made against my client, emotional distress. Essentially, blame is put on Victor for inflicting fear, anxiety, depression, or suicidal thoughts upon the Creature. My associate and I challenge the prosecution to find evidence that this took place. It is clear throughout this tale that the only one suffering emotional distress was Victor Frankenstein. We will show that the Creature was physically and mentally stable. He learned to

speaking, reading, and about human society in a very short time. His motives were always vengeful against his creator, unlike the honorable intentions that Victor initially has. Quite simply, it will be proven that Victor's actions did not cause emotional distress for the Creature in any way.

Moving on, the next claim is that Mr. Frankenstein is guilty of negligence. Negligence is the failure to provide necessary care. It is painfully obvious that this was impossible for Victor to commit. The time that negligence would be an issue is the time after the Creature was given life and was left in the world alone. One could argue that Victor was not there to care for the Creature, that it was his responsibility. However, at this time of his "negligence," Victor was completely unable to care for anyone! He was ill for months, at the mercy of fever! His friend Henry had to nurse him back to life for a long time. When Victor finally regained some health, the only rational conclusion was that his creation had died on his own. There was a very slim chance that he could have survived.

The final charge of physical distress is preposterous. It is clear that the creature did not "suffer" just due to his appearance. His hasty actions accounted for the poor treatment. It is clear that the Creature is very intelligent. He acquired an immense amount of information and concepts over a short period of time. His subpar planning of human interaction caused his rejection, when he was fully aware of society's view of undesirables.

To conclude, if it not proven yet, it will be shown that my client, Victor Frankenstein is completely cleared of all charges brought against him. The truly guilty party here is ... the Creature! He committed cold blooded murders three times and indirectly caused the murder of two others. Victor, on the completely opposite side, sought a different world where no one had to undergo the pain of losing a loved one. He wanted to save lives, not end them! I am sure that by the end of this trial that each one of you find our client innocent of all charges. Thank you.

Robert Walton Questions(Faye)

Q: Please state your name.

A: Robert Walton

Q: Where did you meet Victor?

A: On my journey to the north pole. He was on a floating ice patch

Q: What was he acting like when you met him?

A: He was extremely disheveled, paranoid, and not in a clear state of mind.

Q: What did you and Victor talk about?

A: Victor told me the story of his life and warned me about the dangers of ambition.

Q: In your informed opinion, why did Victor die?

A: It was clear to me that he died due to his intense revenge against the creature. He wanted more than anything to kill his creation so he couldn't cause anymore harm.

Q: Did Victor ask anything specific of you?

A: He asked me to kill the creature he created who had been torturing him if I ever was to see him.

Q: Did you ever see the creature?

A: Yes.

Q: What did the creature say to you when you saw him?

A: He blabbered on for a while but talked about how he "is a wretch" and he has "murdered the lovely and the helpless".

William Frankenstein Questions (Taylor)

Q: Please state your name.

A: William

Q: When were you murdered?

A: This happened during the night time

Q: What were you doing on the night you were murdered?

A: I was outside with my father, my cousin, and my brother Ernest.

Q: Why were you outside?

A: We went on a walk in Plainpalais, it was nice outside so we went on a longer walk than we usually do.

Q: Where were your parents?

A: My father was walking with us, Ernest and I went on our own, and while separated from Ernest, the creature grabbed ahold of me.

Q: Did you see the murderer?

A: Yes

Q: Who killed you?

A: The Creature.

Q: How did he kill you?

A: He wrapped his hands around my neck and strangled me to death.

Q: Did you say anything to the murderer?

A: I told him if he did not let me go I was going to tell my father.

Q: Did the murderer say anything to you?

A: Once he had heard I was a part of the Frankenstein family he said, "Frankenstein! you belong then to my enemy--to him towards whom I have sworn eternal revenge; you shall be my first victim."

Q:Do you believe your death was caused by Victor?

A: Of course not. Victor did create him, but the creature is his own person. He made his own decision to kill me and knew what he was doing.

Psychologist Questions (Faye)

Q: Please state your name and profession?

A: I am Gabrielle Bayer, and I am a psychologist.

Q: Would you say that Victor Frankenstein exhibited any signs of mental illness before the creation came to life?

A: Victor was very dedicated to his work. However, he did not show any signs of mental illness.

Q: What about after?

A: Victor was clearly depressed and suffered from anxiety. He had multiple breakdowns. His emotional weakness led to physical difficulties as well, he was bedridden for months.

Q: Do you believe that Victor Frankenstein is suffering from any sort of mental disorders?

A: Yes, I believe Victor is suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to the Creatures efforts to harm him, his family, and his friends.

Q: Can you identify the creature's intellectual level at the time of his first murder?

A: The creature was clearly at a very high intellectual level. He developed into a very intelligent adult level faster than average people develop. He was unquestionably aware of his actions, and he furthered his injustices by framing Justine when he slipped the locket in her pocket. Only a person with intellect could commit something so unlawful and sinister as an act of revenge, all because he knew he could not have her because of his physical disadvantage.

Q: Is it true that the Creature said "Not I, but she shall suffer: the murder I have committed because I am forever robbed of all that she could give me, she shall atone. The crime had its source in her: be hers the punishment!"

A: Yes.

Q: What does this mean to you as a psychologist?

A: At this point his vengeance was not toward Victor, he realized his disabilities and wanted others to be punished. He was very intelligent to realize this.

Q: Based off of this, can you confidently claim that the creature knew right from wrong at this time?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you feel that Victor was in a stable state of mind when creating the creature?

A: Yes. Victor suffered illness only after he had interaction with the living creature.

Q: As a psychologist, why do you think the creature set out to murder Victor's family?

A: The creature was upset with the way Victor treated him. He wanted to make Victor suffer so he would have no choice but to agree to the creature's commands.

Q: Do you believe that the creature's effort to cause harm to the people associated with Mr. Frankenstein was an act of vengeance?

A: I believe the creature solely sought out to cause distress and take vengeance on Mr. Frankenstein. He wanted Victor to be under his complete control, and to do so he eliminated all of Victor's loved ones.

Q: Do you believe the creature was in a stable state of mind when he committed the murders?

A: Yes.

Ethicist (Taylor)

Q: Was is your occupation?

A: I am an ethicist. I determine right from wrong.

Q: What is your understanding of Victor's motivation in creating his creature?

A: I believe that his motivation was based off of losing his mother and his drive to push the boundaries of science. Victor was a genius whose goal was to better the world.

Q: Is this motivation unethical?

A: This is completely ethical. Scientists are constantly trying to improve the medical and scientific fields. His motivation was beneficial to our planet.

Q: In your professional opinion, is murder ethical?

A: No.

Q: Is the preservation of life ethical?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you think it was wrong of Victor to hide his creation from his family?

A: No. He wanted to protect his friends and family.

Q: Should Victor be held accountable for the creature's actions?

A: No. The creature knew right from wrong.

Elizabeth Frankenstein (Faye)

Q: Please state your name.

A: Elizabeth Frankenstein

Q: How did you meet Victor?

A: I was adopted into his family when they saved me from poverty.

Q: What kind of man did you think of Victor as?

A: Kind hearted, ambitious and determined

Q: How were you killed?

A: I was strangled by the Creature

Q: When were you killed?

A: on my wedding night

Q: Do you believe the creature has feelings?

A: yes, the creature showed his feelings by getting angry, and by getting upset about not having a female companion. All he had to do was remember his feelings because he already had a human's brain and he would have been reconnected with his human feelings when he started seeing the love and feelings of the Delacey family.

Q: Who has the monster taken from you directly and indirectly?

A: Henry, Justine and William, all who are extremely close to us, he knew by killing these people he would upset us, he used it as revenge.

Q: Do you think Victor should be blamed for the murders the creation committed?

A: no , the monster knew exactly what he was doing because he purposely went after everyone Victor loved.

Victor Frankenstein (Taylor)

Q: Please state your name.

A: Victor Frankenstein

Q: Did you experience any traumatic and tragic losses in your life?

A: Yes, my mother died of scarlet fever just before I was to attend the University of Ingolstadt.

Q: What were your feelings regarding this death?

A: I was upset that life was taken so easily and affected me so greatly. My mother was a kind and gentle person, she adopted my dear cousin Elizabeth because she couldn't stand to leave such an innocent child grow up miserably. Her relationship with my father could only be defined with the words "true love," he was never the same after her death.

Q: What were your motives in creating the creature?

A: I was overwhelmed with my pursuit of knowledge. The prospect of creating life seemed so amazing to me, the next medical and scientific breakthrough that would improve the lives of everyone on earth. I did not want anyone to feel the pain that my family and I had felt after my mother died.

Q: What physical state were you in after the creature came to life?

A: I immediately fell into a fever for a long time. I was in no state to do anything.

Q: So there was no way you could have taken care of your creation, correct?

A: There would have been no way. I was too sick to take care of myself, nevermind my creation.

Q: Did you expect anything harmful to happen once your creature came to life?

A: No. I only intended on bringing goodness to the world.

Q: Did you come in contact with the Creature after creating him?

A: Yes, he met me in the mountains near Chamounix. He told me everything he had endured.

Q: Did he seem capable, or independent to you?

A: Yes, he was very intelligent. It was clear to me that he could handle himself.

Q: Did you confess anything to you?

A: Yes, he told me he killed my brother, William.

Q: Did you ever directly ask or imply that the Creature kill anyone?

A: No.

Q: Did you tell the Creature to kill William, Elizabeth, or Henry? Or plant the locket on Justine?

A: No.

Q: Did you ever tell the Creature that murder is ethical, or morally correct?

A: Never.

Q: Is it true that the Creature asked you to create a second Creature?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you complete this task?

A: No.

Q: Why did you not go through with it?

A: I realized that the final product of my initial conquest ended in violence and murder. This was not what I intended, and I definitely did not want to repeat this. I was worried that perhaps these two creatures would reproduce and this barbaric problem would multiply. I wanted to right my wrongs.

Q: How did you feel when you found out your loved one's were being killed?

A: Horrible.

Q: Do you think the Creature felt any regret or emotion after committing these murders?

A: I do not.

Q: Did the creature follow you around?

A: Yes. It seemed he always knew where I was.

Q: Did the creature make you feel unsafe or worried about others?

A: Yes. I never knew what he was going to do next.

Q: Did you ever suffer anxiety, depression, or suicidal thoughts?

A: Yes, I did many times.

Q: Would you feel confident claiming that you suffered emotional distress?

A: Definitely.

Psychiatrist Cross Examination Questions

Q: In your professional opinion, what is the mental age of the Creature?

Q: Did the creature ever exhibit anxiety or suicidal thoughts?

Yes: Can you provide a specific example of this?

Q: The Mayo Clinic defines a “nervous breakdown” as a reaction to stress leading to avoiding “social engagements and miss appointments,” and also to “have trouble following healthy patterns of eating, sleeping, and hygiene.” Is this correct?

Q: Did the creature ever experience this?

Q: Did Victor Frankenstein ever experience this?

Ethicist Cross Examination Questions

Q: Does it seem as though the creature has any sense of moral?

Q: If he is aware of what's wrong and what is right and he chooses to do what is wrong and not what is right doesn't that make him immoral, and rather sinister?

Q: If he had enough good in him to attempt to save the drowning girl, then wouldn't he know better than to strangle young William?

Q: If he went out of his way to do good for the De Lacey's, couldn't he have tried to show Victor that he means well?

Q: The definition of Father, according to Merriam-Webster dictionary is, "A male person whose sperm unites with an egg, resulting in the conception of a child". Based on this, is Victor the father of the Creature?

Q: The parent or father of a person is the one responsible, correct?

Q: If Victor is not the father of the Creature he is not responsible for the creature, correct?

Henry Clerval Cross Examination Questions

Q. You knew Victor very well correct?

Q. Would you consider yourself to be Victor's good friend?

Q. Where did you first meet Mr. Frankenstein?

Q. Did Victor have any bad intentions or motives while studying at the University of Ingolstadt?

Q. Are you aware of the death of Caroline, Victor's mother?

Q. Do you know how traumatic the experience of her death was on Victor?

Q. Do you blame him for using his knowledge to find an advancement in science?

Justine Cross Examination Questions

- Q. You lived and worked with the Frankensteins for quite sometime isn't that right?
- Q. Would you consider yourself a hard worker and good provider towards the family?
- Q. Justine, would you consider yourself as a loyal person?
- Q. Were you close to the Frankenstein's?
- Q. Are you aware who murdered William?
- Q. How do you feel about the creature placing the lock in your pocket?
- Q. Would you consider a murderer a monster?

Mr. Delacey Cross Examination Questions

Q: Did you have conversations with the creature?

Q: Was the creature's speaking skills inefficient?

Q: Did the creature speak fluently?

Q: Would you say that the creature is intelligent?

Q: That means the creature knows right from wrong, correct?

Q: Did the Creature burn your house down?

Q: Do you think it's okay that he burned your house down out of anger?

Q: Didn't the Creature's plan seem unnecessarily hasty to you?

Creature Cross Examination Questions

Q: Who gave you life?

Q: When did you become aware of his existence?

Q: After you were created, what did you do?

Q: Is it true you ran away?

Q: Since you ran away, how could you expect Victor to care for you?

Q: How did you learn to speak and read?

Q: Is it true that you read and comprehended *Paradise Lost*, *Plutarch's Lives*, and *The Sorrows of Young Werther*?

Q: Did these examples of literature go into depth of past heroes and their actions to rise to power?

Q: You are quoted as referring to Volney's *Ruins of Empires* as claiming "Through this work I obtained a cursory knowledge of history, and a view of the several empires at present existing in the world; it gave me an insight into the manners, governments, and religions of the different nations of the earth." Is this correct?

Q: If you learned of the "manners" on earth, and many other in depth concepts, how can you claim to not know right from wrong?

Q: Would you consider yourself intelligent?

Q: You observed the Delacey's for a long period of time correct?

Q: Did you feel that gathering wood for them was ethically correct?

Q: Did their love and generous actions seem ethical as well?

Q: It is true that you burned the Delacey's house to the ground after they left?

Q: At this time, due to your learnings from reading, and observing a loving family, did you perceive cold blooded murder and arson as ethical?

Q: Did you commit murder by strangling innocent people?

Q: Is it true that you swore vengeance on Victor Frankenstein?

Q: Did you frame an innocent person of William Frankenstein's murder?

Q: Who was this person?

Q: How did you frame her and where did you find her?

Q: Were you aware of her relation to Victor Frankenstein at the time of the framing?

Q: Was framing her necessary to continue to live undetected?

Q: Why would you cause the murder of an innocent girl, when it had nothing to do with your revenge of Victor?

Q: Is there any proof that you ever felt regret or sorrow after these murders?

Q: You claim that Victor's actions caused you emotional distress. This includes suicidal thoughts, anxiety, and depression, correct?

Q: Did you ever experience suicidal thoughts?

Q: When? After Victor was dead?

Q: Anxiety is defined as a nervous disorder characterized by a state of excessive uneasiness and apprehension, typically with compulsive behavior or panic attacks. Did you experience these symptoms?

Q: Did you ever undergo a panic attack?

Q: Depression is characterized by symptoms of inactivity, difficulty in thinking and concentration, a significant increase or decrease in appetite and time spent sleeping, feelings of dejection and hopelessness. Did you experience any of these?

Follow Up Questions

Psychiatrist:

- Q: Could the Creature breath?
- Q: Could he drink?
- Q: Did his heart function?
- Q: How is this physical distress?

Mr. Delacey:

- Q: Did the Creature seem like a good person to you?
- Q: Why didn't you stop Felix from attacking him?
- Q: Do you know what the Creature looked like?
- Q: What was his tone of voice?

Ethicist:

- Q: How long was Victor sick for?
- Q: Do you have any knowledge of the Creature's well being/his location?
- Q: When did Victor first see the Creature?
- Q: Do you believe Victor assumed the Creature was dead?
- Q: Is it ethical to continue scientific advancement?
- Q: It is ethical to advance human health?

Justine:

- Q: Would the town have believed Victor if he told them?
- Q: Could you prove the Creature's actions?
- Q: Is murder wrong?

Henry:

- Q: Would you share embarrassing info with others?
- Q: Who murdered you?
- Q: What was Victor's reaction to your death?
- Q: What were Victor's intentions creating the Creature?
- Q: Was it right for the Creature to kill you?

Creature:

- Q: The book "Roman Empires" was it fiction?
- Q: Is arsenal legal?
- Q: Did he write his plans in a second journal?
- Q: What kind of parent writes down their plans for a child?

Closing Argument - Faye Gauthier

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, my final message to all of you is simple; Victor Frankenstein is innocent of all charges he has been accused of. Victor is a loving, caring, compassionate man who only ever wanted the best for everyone he ever met. He lost his mother at a vulnerable time in his life, and this troubled him for some time. Victor saw how his family suffered, his father lost the love of his life, his two younger brothers and Elizabeth lost their mother. This took an enormous toll on Victor, as I am sure you can imagine; it was clear to him at this point that his genius should be employed in moral pursuits. From then on, Victor toiled endlessly to better the lives of every person on the planet. Victor Frankenstein did not want one other person to suffer the pain his family did. His goal is equivalent to searching for the cancer cure, or treatments for any other disease. Meanwhile, the Creature murdered three innocent people, and caused the deaths of two others.

To recap on what has taken place here the past few days, it is clear that the prosecution neglected to directly address and prove any of the three charges. Physical distress and emotional distress were never discussed. There is no concrete evidence provided by witnesses that the creature suffered either of these. As for negligence, the prosecution attempted to prove of this, however the facts of this case show otherwise. Victor Frankenstein fell seriously ill after the creature came to life. There was no conceivable way that he would have been able to care for the creature at this time. Further, the creature left the laboratory before Victor could have ever started to care for him. None of these facts prove that Victor neglected the creature. Besides the prosecution's feeble attempts at proving this, my associate and I went on to question the Creature himself about his alleged "emotional distress." He testified that he never experienced

depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, or a panic attack. When asked specifically about the symptoms of these issues, he denied each one.

The plaintiff also claims that Victor did not teach him morals so he was unable to understand that murder is unethical. Again, in reference to the Creature's own testimony, he learned an extensive amount of knowledge regarding society, government, and the "manners" of the civilized world via several in depth books. It is very cut and dry that murdering innocent people is not considered ethical in these readings. The Creature observed the Delacey's for a long time. He witnessed a loving family, and desired to be a part of it. He knew their lives were ethical, he knew right from wrong. The creature developed very quickly, he learned how to speak and read on his own. He was a very intelligent being. There is no possible way that he was not aware that murdering an innocent child, and two adults is unethical.

In conclusion, I want to reiterate the indisputable facts of this case. Victor Frankenstein wanted to further scientific advancements. Victor Frankenstein did not want anyone to feel the pain of losing a loved one. The Creature wanted Victor Frankenstein to feel the pain of losing a loved one. The Creature framed Justine, an innocent woman. The Creature murdered William Frankenstein, a small boy. The Creature murdered Henry Clerval, a loving friend. The Creature murdered Elizabeth Frankenstein, a benevolent wife. The Creature is the criminal. Victor Frankenstein is innocent.

Thank you.