

Frankenstein by Mary Shelly Essay

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Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein* and Fyodor Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment* include elements of both isolationism: the policy of separating yourself from everything; and loneliness: the unpleasant feeling in which a person experiences solitude from inadequate levels of social relationships (Wikipedia). Both motifs are seen in each novel and contribute to an overall theme of alienation. This feeling of alienation was derived from the authors' personal experiences. Shelly and Dostoevsky invented fictional characters that struggled with mental and physical separation that reflected their subconscious. The main characters they created were Rashkolnikov in [Crime and Punishment](#) and Victor [Frankenstein](#) in *Frankenstein*. These characters' conflicts were partially precipitated from each of their social circumstances in the plot and partially from poor decision-making as individuals. Thus, the common theme has made the two novels, *Frankenstein* and *Crime and Punishment*, infamous for proving alienation's evil affects in distinguishing ways.

Shelly and Dostoevsky's life stories of heartache reveal a familiar starting place to write grotesque novels. Shelly educated herself amongst her father's intellectual circle during a time period of woman suppression. Her inspiration for *Frankenstein* came after the loss of her first premature born child. She revealed her dream: "...that my little baby came to life again - that it had only been cold [and] that we rubbed it before the fire [and] it lived"

(Duluth Public Library). From this dark place, she was able to conceive Frankenstein's horror story that was suspenseful enough to win a scary story contest amongst her friends. Similarly, Dostoevsky experienced an oppressed atmosphere from his tyrant father a...

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