

Jessica Meno
2/13/13
10IH, A1
Mr. Coia
ATOTC Essay Outline
Words: 734

Love in the Best of Times

I. Introduction

A. *Global/Broad Statement*

1. Love is a universal word with various meanings derived from not only a dictionary, but from one's past experiences.
2. Love holds an ability as powerful as time: it can heal, strengthen, erode, weaken, and completely conquer humans.
3. From an early age, people are taught to love with their hearts; that love can either prosper into something more, or morph into something less.

B. *ATOTC Tie-In*

1. In a historical fiction, a reoccurrence of love might seem irrelevant and cliché.
2. However, Charles Dickens adds the perfect amount as he writes his famous story, *A Tale of Two Cities*.
3. The characters, at first, did not seem to be connected, but by the golden thread of Lucie Manette, their relations were made clear.
4. Throughout this captivating novel, many different levels of love are shown in the characters' actions. Love grows between the characters as it moves the plot along in a steady pace, showcasing how love can lead to pleasant awakenings.

C. *Thesis Statement*

- I. *A Tale of Two Cities* displays the main theme of love in Mr. Lorry's love for the Manettes, Lucie's love for Charles Darnay, and Sydney Carton's sacrificial love for Lucie.

D. *Supporting Details for the Thesis*

1. The story's beginning was caused by the concern of a family friend
2. A woman's love changed the future for two men
3. One man makes the ultimate sacrifice for his cherished soul

II. Body Paragraphs

A. *Mr. Lorry's Love for the Manette Family*

1. Cause of the whole novel
2. "As a man of business, I am not justified in saying anything about this matter, for, as a man of business, I know nothing of it" (178).
3. Claims he is "a man of business", however, his actions show differently
4. Gets defensive when Mr. Stryver goes to propose to Lucie
5. Cares for Dr. Manette and becomes a regular visitor to the Manette house in Soho
6. Throws out Manette's shoe bench and tools to make sure he never relapses again

B. *Lucie's Love for Charles Darnay and Admiration for Sydney Carton*

1. Attractive blonde who steals the hearts of all men
2. Falls in love with a criminal, Charles Darnay, who is proven innocent; marries and bears a child
3. Visits Darnay when he is imprisoned once again

4. Carton, along with Darnay, falls in love with Lucie; visits her to tell his feelings
5. “No, Mr. Carton. I am sure that the best part of it might still be; I am sure that you might be much, much worthier of yourself” (185).
6. Lucie believes that she can turn Carton’s life around from purposeless to purposeful
7. Gives him compassion and sympathy, keeping his feelings a secret

C. Sydney Carton’s Love for Lucie

1. Proves to be the most dynamic character in the novel
2. Once a drunk, he sobers up and has a change of heart due to Lucie Manette, the “golden-haired doll” (110).
3. Develops feelings for her, and states, “..think now and then that there is a man who would give his life, to keep a life you love beside you!” (188).
4. Foreshadows his later sacrifice of his own life for his love’s husband
5. Died for a promise he made, making his change more known to the reader

III. Conclusion

A. Restatement of Thesis

1. It is important to recognize the fact that love is more than romance.
2. Love exists both mentally and physically through the choices of the characters.
3. Love is the fuel for the engine of the novel as it chugs through the twists and turns towards the end.

B. ATOTC Tie-In

1. Mr. Lorry’s love for a family as if they are his own
2. Lucie’s love of a marriage and compassion for a friend
3. Sydney Carton’s letting go and giving everything to someone, then living on in her heart

C. Global Connection

1. The definition of true love comes from the heart, and cannot truly be limited to one
2. However, an impact will stay with those who have felt such passion
3. Emotional scars are left behind, good or bad, and will continue to influence the way that one lives for the rest of his or her life
4. As Sydney Carton, a sacrificer for someone he loved, stated at the end of the novel, “It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known” (462).