Victims of Love Essay - A Midsummer Nights Dream

Revision 2, December 22, 2021

Revisited in a Layover from Costa Rica to Miami and from Miami to Washington DC, I am severely jet-lagged but whatever, it was my fault for having this on the back on my calendar.

**Objective:** This is an **Argumentative Essay.** Your objective is to differentiate between argumentative, and the other two forms of writing we have been studying.

**Description:**

There are some who say that instead of the characters in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* being in love, they are actually victims of love. In a well-constructed essay, 1-2 pages, define the term “victim” and analyze whether or not three couples are actually victims of love. Begin writing on the following page.

Victim (Noun) : a person who is tricked or duped; *the victim of a hoax. - New Oxford American Dictionary*

In *The Midsummer Nights Dream* play by William Shakespeare, the reader gets introduced to relationships like Hermia’s parents, the Fairies loyalty, and the 4 lovers relationships. Continuing the thought, the reader finds that Hermia’s parents are perfectly happy (or so the reader assumes since her parents don’t seem to have much trouble when it comes to their relationship as per say, the Fairies/Lovers who find problems throughout the storyline) and since they don’t contain much detail in the story. In the play *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, the Lovers and the Fairies King and Queen are not Victims of Love.

According to the *New Oxford American Dictionary*, the word Victim generally refers to a Witness of a Crime, so for example, people who are affected by a certain event can be classified in this definition as victim. If the reader uses that definition, they would classify Hermia’s parents as Victims. The reader knows this because Hermia’s parents witnessed their loving daughter prefer someone that they didn’t accept, as seen in the text when it states “And what is mine my love shall render him; I do estate unto Demetrius” (Shakespeare, 65), therefore the reader can make the argument that the parents are a Victim of Love as they were present in the time that Hermia turned down Demetrius for Lysander.

Although the reader can make the connection with Victim and Hermia’s parents, it can’t be said about the other characters in the story. For example, when the reader considers Hermia and Lysander, they realized quite fast that Hermia was the one who chose Lysander over Demetrius, as the text says “Demetrius, I’ll avouch it to his head, Made love with Nedar’s daughter, Helena” (Shakespeare, 65), where the reader is met with a problem, Hermia and Lysander are “the criminals” if the reader defines Victim in this context.

When the reader takes Demetrius and Helena and apply the definition of Victim to their relationship. The reader notices the same correlation between Lysander and Hermia and Demetrius and Helena. The reader notices that both relationships was wanted by all of the Lovers as the text states “You sway the motion of Demetrius’ heart!” (Shakespeare, 69) where the reader can see that Hermia openly admits that Helena should love Demetrius and not her. Therefore the reader can consider Demetrius and Helena as Criminals like their Lover counterparts Hermia and Lysander.

Though a witness is what a reader typically refers to when thinking about the word Victim, (in the English Lexicon, it is the primary definition), the word Victim has other meanings as well. As the reader progresses the book, they might consider Victim to mean Living Sacrifice also defined in the New Oxford American Dictionary. But the reader cannot be mistaken, the play *A Midsummer Nights Dream* has nothing has nothing to do with any act of murder or anything close to it. The *New Oxford American Dictionary* has one more input of the word Victim and it is the one that the reader can associate with most characters. The definition is a person who is tricked or duped.

If the reader takes the Lovers Hermia and Lysander and apply the newly defined definition of Victim, they notice that it makes more since as father in the story line they escape their Village of origin as stated when the author says “a time that lovers’ flight doth still conceal”(Shakespeare, 70), meaning that the couple escaped. The reader is left wondering why they left, but when they take into consideration everything that the lovers has been through, the reader is informed that the reason why the lovers left was to get away from Hermia’s parents. That leads the reader to question the relationship’s authenticity because if they were victims, that would mean that they were victims of a Hoax. In what the reader can disagree quite easily knowing everything that they’ve gone through up to that point.

The other lovers, Demetrius and Helena results in the reader getting similar results, as the storyline stays consistent (as in most of what happened in the first Lovers relationship also happened to the second relationship) with one small difference and that is with the reason why the Lovers left. The reader is informed that the couple ran to the forest after the first couple, as stated when the author says “I shall follow thou;“ (Shakespeare, 75) where Demetrius follows Helena after Helena tries following Hermia and Lysander. The reader could question their relationship but seeing how committed Demetrius is to Helena and how Helena said in the text “O, that my prayers could such affection move!” (Shakespeare, 68) the reader notices that they love each other very much and is committed to their relationship.

Then the story progresses and the reader gets introduced to the King of Fairies and his servant, referred to as Robin the Puck. The reader gets informed that the King had problems with his wife and so tells the puck to add flower juice (a special liquid that the puck could put on a sleeping person and make them fall in love with the first person they see) on Demetrius. But instead the puck puts the flower juice on Lysander and then the next person he sees is Helena. The reader finds out that when Helena wakes up Lysander, the flower juice makes Lysander to fall in love with her, as the author states “Content with Hermia! No; I do not repent the tedious minutes I with her have spent. Not Hermia, but Helena I love” (Shakespeare, 86), that leaves the reader knowing that the victim of love in the context “tricked or duped” is Lysander and Helena.

The reader finishes the story with Lysander’s Flower Juice Effects gets reversed by the queen of fairies. As the reader could question if the characters in *A Midsummer Nights Dream* were victims of love, they fall in line that in the outcome. none of them were victims of any sorts, since all of the relationships in the story were authentic, and in the end, everyone ended happy.