

Jack Franks

Mrs. Lewis

English 10

17 November 2022

Literary Analysis Synthesis Essay

Helping others can greatly increase happiness in peoples' lives. In the short stories, "The Son from America." by Isaac Singer, "1000 Dollars," by O. Henry, and "Witches' Loaves," by O. Henry, the authors tell stories about happiness. All of the characters who define happiness are happy because of helping other people. After reading these three short stories the reader learns that happiness comes from experiences and social interaction rather than from material possessions. Happiness can be found through people's interactions with each other as displayed by character action, character motivations, and character dialogue that are used in all three short stories.

The authors of the stories, "The Son From America," and "1000 Dollars" both use character dialogue to develop the theme that happiness comes from relationships and experiences, not material possessions. The author of the story, "The Son From America," uses character dialogue to present the theme by showing that the parent's were happy with what they had, "'Why didn't you spend it? On what? Thank God, we have everything'" (Singer 4), the quote shows that even though Berl and his wife were happy because they had everything they wanted and didn't need more than enough. This shows that happiness comes from relationships because Berl and Bericha were happy with not spending their son's money because they cared more about the village and its people than owning lots of things. The author of the story, "1000 Dollars" uses character dialogue as a way to develop the theme with the quote, "They found an

amendment or a postscript or something to the will... willed you a this thousand dollars.”

(Henry 3), the quote shows that Gillian was more happy when he gave away the thousand dollars he received to someone else. This shows the theme because even though Gillian is rich he was the most happy when giving his money to others. In summary, the authors of the stories, “The Son From America,” and “1000 Dollars” both show the theme through the use of character dialogue.

Both of the short stories, “Witches’ Loaves” and “The Son From America” use character motivation to help develop the theme that happiness comes from relationships and experiences, not from material possessions. The author of the story “Witches’ Loaves” uses character motivation as a way to develop the theme, “Her heart ached to add something good to eat to his meager purchase,” (Henry). This quote shows that Miss Martha was sad on her own but became happier when trying to add extra to the man’s food. This shows the theme because she was most happy when around the man and wanted to give up some of her stock to get him to come back. The author of the story, “The Son From America” uses character motivation to build the theme, “He wanted to help the village... But the village needed nothing,” (Singer 5), This quote shows that the son came to the village to help his parents but realized that they were happy with how everything was. This shows that even though the son is rich he isn’t as happy as his parents are because they are fine with living in the small village.

The author of both stories, “Witches’ Loaves” and “1000 Dollars” uses character actions as a way to develop the theme that Happiness comes from experiences and relationships, not from material possessions. The author of “1000 Dollars” uses characters' actions to help develop the theme, “He tore the account and its cover leisurely into strips... they heard him whistling gayly in the hallway as he waited for the elevator,” (Henry 4). This quote shows how Gillian

wanted Miss Hayden to have the fifty thousand dollars because he believed he didn't need it.

This shows the theme because Gillian is happiest when giving away the money that was given to him to someone he thinks is more deserving of it. The author of the story, "Witches' Loaves" uses character action as a way to develop the theme, "Miss Martha made a deep slash in each of the stale loaves, inserted a generous quantity of butter, and pressed the loaves tight again...Miss Martha smiled to herself, but not without a slight fluttering of the heart." (Henry 2). This quote shows how Miss Martha is happy to give the man some of the butter in hopes that he would return. This shows the theme because Miss Martha is happier after giving away food than if she kept it for herself.

In summary, happiness is found throughout people's interactions with each other and their relationships rather than from the things they own as shown in the short stories above through the use of character actions, motivation, and dialogue. "The Son from America." by Isaac Singer, "1000 Dollars," by O. Henry, and "Witches' Loaves," by O. Henry all show this in their short stories of happiness.