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English I Pre-AP/GT

29 March 2010

Assertion

1. Romeo becomes passionate about someone based on a measure of the amount of beauty they have. This type of love is unreliable because the affection he has towards someone can easily be forgotten or disappear as soon as he sees someone with more appealing physical characteristics.

* “One fairer than my love? The all-seeing sun ne’er saw her match since first the world begun” (Act 1 Scene 2). Romeo says he can love no one else because he’s sure his love is the most beautiful woman of all.
* “Did my heart love till now? Forswear it, sight! For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night” (Act 1 Scene 5).

Within the same day, he no longer loves his Rosaline because he saw someone prettier than her.

* The friar states, “Young men’s love then lies not truly in their hearts, but in their eyes” (Act 2 Scene 3), when he sees that Romeo has already forgotten Rosaline for another beauty.

Commentary: Romeo’s so-called love for someone isn’t as strong as it seems even though he speaks with a lot of emotion. If he bases his love only on what he sees, it is certain that he will constantly be changing his devotion towards someone since it’s likely that he will see a lot of women in his life with different ranges of beauty. Infatuation is characterized as an immediate extravagant passion over someone based on unreasonable aspects such as sole physical appearance. Infatuation can disappear just as quickly as it was formed.

1. A big lesson that both Shakespeare and Dickens wanted to point out is to learn that love does not mean you have an excessive obsession over someone. Obsessions lead to people becoming emotionally unstable, miserable, and making impulsive decisions.

* Romeo emotions over being banished because he think his obsessive romance with Juliet is ruined causes him to commit “wild acts” that “denote the unreasonable fury of a beast” (Act 3 Scene 3).
* The Friar tells Romeo that he scolded him “For doting, not for loving,”(Act 2, Scene 3) and he would prefer that Romeo “love moderately” (Act 2 Scene 6).
* Miss Havisham commited the impulsive act of wreaking revenge on all men when her obsessive romance left her miserable.

Excessive obsession and infatuation over someone leads to being controlled by emotion. When one is controlled by emotion, one makes a lot of decisions based on impulse instead of logic.

1. The consequences of the impulsive decisions often result in miserable deaths or miserable people.

* When Romeo would “pout’st upon [his] fortune and [his] love” the Friar warned him to “take heed, for such die miserable” (Act 3 Scene 3).
* Because of impulsive actions, Juliet and Romeo kill themselves, die unhappy, and leave their families unhappy.
* Miss Havisham’s impulsive actions left her dying unhappy from feeling regretful of all the misery she caused to Pip.

Impulsive actions are irrational since they are based on emotion. When a character has negative emotions, he will take action that often causes negative consequences such as suicide which will only lead to the misery of their loved ones and their suicides.

1. The customs of the time period are taken so seriously parents will abandon their own daughter before having a damaged reputation.

* Lord Capulet is enraged that as “unworthy as [Juliet] is” (Act 3 Scene 5), she refuses to marry such a noble count.
* Lord Capulet promises to Juliet that she will be kicked out and left to starve if she does not marry Count Paris.
* When Juliet hopes to get sympathy from her mother, she responds, “Talk not to me, for I’ll not speak a word. Do as thou wilt, for I have done with thee”(Act 3 Scene 5).

Juliet and her feeling about marriage are considered as unworthy in comparison to the reputation she will leave on herself and her family. Family is merciless to the child when something as prized as reputation is at stake. Knowing Juliet’s full story, one sympathizes with her and sees the horrors of this kind of ideology.

1. Friar Laurence suggests philosophy to Romeo because it can aid him in becoming more rational when it is overflowing with emotion.

* Because of Romeo’s overwhelming emotions, he lays on the “ground, with his own tears made drunk”(

instead of trying to come up with the solution.

* One Romeo finally listens to reason and philosophy, he realizes “How well [his] comfort is revived”(

is revived by it.

Philosophy requires some reflecting on the actual situation and looking at things from a realistic standpoint over an emotional standpoint. Friar Laurence needed Romeo to overcome his weakness in letting emotion control his impulsive decision of trying to kill himself or wasting time crying over his misfortunes. If Romeo had reflected on the situation by using philosophy, he would have saved himself from his own misery because he would see the blessings that he had from the situation.