**Les Misérables: Quotes-n-Notes**

**Fantine:**

**Theme:**

* **Quote (Love and Compassion):** *“Now,” said the bishop, “go in peace. By the way, my friend, when you come again, you need not come through the garden. You can always come in and go out by the front door…” “Forget not, never forget that you have promised me to use this silver to become an honest man.”* (Page 33)
  + **Note:** This quote shows the love and compassion which Bishop Bienvenu displayed towards Jean. Jean was caught with stolen goods, yet the Bishop’s compassion and love for Jean prevented Jean’s arrest. All he asks for return is that Jean becomes a better man from thence on. This is in contrast to the way that Jean Valjean has been treated by others that he has encountered. The Bishop goes beyond the kindness that would normally be expected. He doesn’t just tolerate Jean. He invites hem to come in by the front door as a friend.

**Conflicts/Tensions:**

* **Quote (Self vs. Self):** “*Do what he might, he always fell back upon this sharp thought dilemma… to remain in paradise and there become a demon! To re-enter into hell and there become an angel! The torment… broke loose anew within him.*”(Page 76)
  + **Note:** Javert had just revealed to Jean (then M. Madeleine) that the “real” Jean Valjean had been found elsewhere. Jean is then faced with the dilemma of staying in M— sur M— without having to face a trial (hence being a demon in paradise) or going to Arras and reveal himself to be Jean. If he goes to the trial, he will be able to save an innocent man (hence being an angel in hell). He also knows that if he goes to the trial, he will be arrested. That will prevent him from helping the people in his town and the workers who work for him. He is a man of influence and wealth and he has been using it for good. All of that will end if he is in prison.

**Symbols:**

* **Quote: (forty-sous silver coin)** “*He took a sheet of paper and wrote: These are the ends of my loaded club and the forty-sous piece stolen from Petite Gervais… He took from a wardrobe an old shirt which he tore into several pieces and in which he packed the two silver candlesticks. In all of this there was neither haste nor agitation.*”(page 106)
  + **Note:** Jean Valjean carried with him the forty-sous piece and the silver candlesticks with him. It symbolizes a duality of his past. One represents the sins which he has committed (the sous he stole from Gervais). The other represents the compassion and “second chance” which Bishop Bienvenu had given Jean during his attempted burglary (the candlesticks). Both items greatly symbolize Jean’s actions as well as a connection to Petite Gervais, but even more for the Bishop who helped Jean turn his life around.

**This same pattern should be repeated for each the four Notes-n-Quotes assignments. The second Notes-n-Quotes assignment will cover both Cosette and Marius. The others will cover single books.**