Lesta Slocum

Ms. Keeler

IB Literature: 4A

3 Feb 2015

Thesis

In *Slaughterhouse-Five* and *Madame Bovary*, both novelists use literature as a literal and figurative escape from reality in order to highlight the chaos of an ever-changing world.

Works Cited

Flaubert, Gustav. *Madame Bovary*. New York: Penguin, 1984.

In Gustav Flaubert’s *Madame Bovary* (1984), the author presents the narrative of an unfulfilled bourgeois woman in early 1800s France. Flaubert uses techniques such as linear pacing, ornate style, and free indirect discourse to mirror the protagonist’s struggles to be content. In using these techniques, Flaubert was criticizing the superficiality and hedonistic lifestyles of the rising middle class. Read voraciously throughout France when initially published, Madame Bovary has resonated with adolescents throughout the world.

Nelson, R. J. "Madame Bovary as Tragedy." Modern Language Quarterly 18.4 (1957):

323-30. Web. 12 Nov. 2014.

In his examination of *Madame Bovary as a Tragedy*, Robert J. Nelson (1957) draws similarities between Flaubert’s Emma and Sophocles’ Oedipus. He outlines Emma’s tragedy as the result of her flawed romantic dream as she fully realizes the utter emptiness of life in a bourgeois world, which he compares to Oedipus’ choices after learning he fulfilled the prophesy. Nelson compares these characters to show that while both characters pursue different desires, it is characteristic nature of desiring that brings them to human tragedy. The article is written to undergraduate and graduate students studying English Literature.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. New York: Dell Pub, 1969.

In Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969), Vonnegut explores the themes of fate, war, and time in a semi-autobiographical narrative. Using non-linear pacing, black humor, and tropes of science fiction, Vonnegut attempts to convey the ever-present effects of war. He crafts these techniques to condemn war and all of its ramifications. His original audience was the counter-culture of the American 1960s, though most adolescents now read the novel in high school.

Weninger, Stephen. "Madame Bovary's Slipper." Nineteenth-Century Contexts 32.3

(2010): 235-43. Web. 05 Jan. 2015.

In Stephen Weninger's "Madame Bovary's Slipper" (2010), Weninger argues that the use of shoes in *Madame Bovary* symbolizes the incongruity between fantasy and reality, illustrated by the body's tendency to resist restraints that society tries to place on it. Weninger supports this argument by discussing the novel’s various allusions to “Cinderella,” as well as textual examples of physical bodies not conforming to societal ideals, such as the episode with the clubfoot. He uses these examples to illustrate how, in the story, reality and the physical body can never live up to imagined expectations. It can be assumed that Weninger's audience are individuals who are well read and well educated, likely those college age and above, because he includes many in-depth references to both Madame Bovary and Cinderella.

Your Checklist:

* Your last name and page number are in the top-right corner.
* You have included the MLA heading, which is double-spaced. It is formatted similarly to the one above.
* Thesis is centered. It is not underlined or italicized.
* You have written your thesis. It is double-spaced and justified to the left and tabbed once.
* Works Cited is centered. It is not underlined or italicized. We are still using double-spacing.
* All bibliography entries are formatted in MLA using Times New Roman/Ariel 12.
* All bibliography entries are double-spaced. The second (or third, fourth, fifth, etc) lines of the entry are tabbed/indented.
* All bibliography entries are in alphabetical order.
* Each entry has a précis underneath, which follows the précis format.
* The précis is single-spaced and in Times New Roman/Ariel 10.
* You have at least five sources.