

\*this essay is evenly double spaced

(Point-by-Point)

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not a complete title

Pettingill  
SEHS LOTA AM2  
1146 words

Uses of Character Development: Finding Happiness

Formal title (yet not that strong or indicative of essay)

*My Antonia* by Willa Cather and *Like Water for Chocolate* by Laura Esquivel

To the point; introduces texts

both follow the struggles and hardships of young girls as they find themselves and become strong women. Cather's Antonia conquers the hardships of Mother Nature and culture shock to find happiness in her family, while Esquivel's Tita fights her strong-headed mother and cultural tradition to end up leaving the world with her true love. Cather's characterization offers the reader a hopeful message happiness and perseverance, where Esquivel creates strongly emotional characterization and happiness that is so great that it is achieved after death. Cather and Esquivel use culture, the theme of loss, and changes in settings to develop their characters and show that the toughest roads are those to happiness, whether in this lifetime or the next.

what does this mean? Awk.

not atypic sentences

Being one of the only Bohemian families to move to Nebraska the Shimerdas had hopes of "much money, much land for my boys, much husband for my girls" (Cather 59).

correct citations

Antonina Pt #1

In the early chapters Cather creates a carefree and young Antonia who trails along barefoot on the prairie. Soon Antonia learns that she would need to help take care of her family, breaking through cultural norms as she does so. After a harsh winter and hard times Antonia trades in her bare feet for work boots and begins to do the work of a man. Antonia works all day doing physical work on the farm, rather than go to school as the rest of the children do: "I ain't got time to learn. I can work like mans now." (Cather 80).

point #1

inc.

CLASS SET: Return!

Your last name  
↓  
[redacted] 2 ← page #'s

Others talked about Antonia, making nasty jokes, as she strays from the normal work of young girls and takes on "chores a girl ought not to do" (Cather 81). Antonia pushes past what others think, and grows up quickly, proud to help her family.

Connect back to thesis ??

Note: transition →

Like Cather's Antonia, Tita strays from the life that was planned for her before

uses dictio from thesis

she had tasted her first Christmas roll. Esquivel depicts the strong cultural traditions and how highly they are held in Mama Elena's household. Tita is destined to be a daughter and virgin forever as she takes care of her mother. When the love of Tita's life, Pedro, comes asking for her hand in marriage Mama Elena explains she is unavailable as she must "take care of me until the day I die" (Esquivel 10). Unlike Antonia who goes against social norms for all to see, Tita does not go against Mama Elena's wishes blatantly, but rather her emotions take on a life of their own. In a chance encounter with Pedro "Their passionate glances fused so perfectly that whoever saw them would have seen but a single look" (Esquivel 67). Tita goes against her social roles by accident, or when she seemingly forgets the shame it would bring to her family, not with pride as Antonia does.

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L.W.F.C pt #1

good direct comparison

transitivi

point #2

strong topic sentence

In *My Antonia* Willa Cather uses the theme of death and loss to develop the

character of Antonia. The first and by far the worst winter Antonia experiences is when her father commits suicide, after his longing for the old country overcomes him. Mr. Shimerda was whom Antonia was closest to in her family and "she was the only one of his family who could rouse the old man from the torpor in which he seemed to live" (Cather 29). Cather shows rather than tells of Antonia's heartbreak. How she became stronger, focusing on the family's needs, rather than her own. Cather creates the sense that things would have been different without the loss of Mr. Shimerda, as some pressure

Antonia pt #2

choose excellent quotes that support thesis

↑  
weak word choice

↑  
the somewhat

would be taken off Antonia. She could have stayed a child longer, and not have lost herself growing up.

confusing - what is the so what?

good transition

Shows topic sentence

In *Like Water for Chocolate* Esquivel also explores the theme of death to develop the character of Tita. In the novel Tita's closest confidante Nacha dies of a broken heart similar to Mr. Shimerda. "It was as if her real mother had died" (Esquivel 48). As the family cook Nacha took over supporting Tita soon after her birth, whether it be with nourishment or mental support. Both Tita and Antonia lose the person who was dearest to them. Where Antonia becomes colder and loses herself, Tita does just the opposite. Losing Nacha was the final push Tita needed to find herself. After losing Nacha, Tita overwhelmed with emotions, was finally able to realize she could stand up to Mama Elena. She begins to act against her mother more and more, whether she means to or not through the gift that Nacha passed along to her, the gift of cooking.

L.W.F.C pt #2

Engagement

NO quote shall stand alone - integrate! Set up!

Doesn't really support topic sentence

clear topic sentence

Cather uses a change in setting to help shape Antonia. Antonia moves into the nearby town where she works as a hired girl to the Harling family. She is still helping her family by sending some money home, but thanks to Mrs. Harling gets to keep some of her wages for herself. Antonia loves taking care of the Harling children, along with learning how to raise children and keep a household. Mrs. Harling found Antonia's greatest fault "was that she so often stopped her work and fell to playing with the children" (Cather 100). The Harlings helped Antonia regain her childlike ways that seemingly died with her father, and find her passion: her family.

Antonia pt #3

Weak support not connected to T.S.

Quote not connected to "setty"

the so what, yet not elaborated

transition

novel

Esquivel's Tita also has a change of setting for a portion of the book. After a fight with Mama Elena, Tita goes to live with Dr John Brown. In a fragile emotional and mental state Tita is drawn to the man, and slowly she opens up. Where Antonia's new

surroundings help her find herself, Tita finds her new surroundings making her question her love for Pedro. With distance between herself and the rest of her family, Tita looks for security and peace in John. As he helps heal her soul, and opens her up to new things she is left asking herself "Could that someone be John?" (Esquivel 118). Cather's use of the change of scenery allows Antonia to regain herself, while the sudden change leaves strongly emotional Tita questioning her life.

weak, vague word  
He so what!  
good

the subject

Both Cather and Esquivel's characters lose themselves when going through the hardships of life. Antonia dealt with <sup>F</sup> struggles with hard work and found herself overtime, the love in her heart blooming into a large family where she could laugh and love alongside all of her children and her husband. Tita overcame her oppressive mother and social roles and left the physical world to be with Pedro for all eternity where they could live in peace. Where both women found their happiness in the end of the novels. Cather and Esquivel painted two very different stories and happy endings. Cather shows that pushing through rough paths of love lead to a beautiful field, while Esquivel shows that living on the edge of emotions leads to the all encompassing light at the end of a twisting tunnel.

Recap 3 points, thesis

Synthesis

Does this make sense?

Be aware of the final words in your essay

Remember:

Conclusion is a summary of points, restatement of thesis, and final statement about chosen comparison - End with strength and intention.

Note: All quotes should be excellent support of topic sentence - when no quote is found, use paraphrase. Always explain quotes and set-up context.