

Humanities III

Mrs. Van Zant

- 1) Hard Times: Charles Dickens
- 2) Eugenie Grandet: Honore' de Balzac
- 3) Old Goriot: Honore' de Balzac
- 4) Madame Bovary: Gustave Flaubert
- 5) Anna Karenina: Leo Tolstoy

- 1. The Juxtaposition and Disposition of the "Characters" in Dickens' Hard Times.
- 2. Circus, School, and Manufacturing--discuss these elements of story-line in Dickens' Hard Times.
- *3. Discuss Bounderky's "success story" in comparison to the American Dream.
- 4. Social injustice: discuss the relentless indictment against callous greed and exploitation made so savagely by Dickens in Hard Times.
- 5. How does a suppressed Victorian girl, liberate herself? (Louise Gradgrind)
What is the price she must pay for liberation? (no divorce)
- 6. Discuss the moral and generous nature of Rachael in comparison to Mrs. Sparsit.--and discuss their respective social reputations.
- 7. Discuss the moral conclusions of this story (Hard Times).
- 8. Discuss the importance of wealth as a disease or cure of social ills; the use and abuse of wealth.
- +9. Discuss the idea of just retribution--its presence and absence from Dickens' Hard Times.

de Balzac: Eugenie Grandet

- 1. Discuss the effects of Grandet's miserliness upon his wife, daughter, and servant.
- 2. If Grandet devotes his life to Avarice and Madame Grandet to God what does Eugenie devote her life to? How have her parents affected her personality?
- 3. Discuss how de Balzac skilfully expresses in his chief characters a dominant idea which amounts to an obsession.
- 4. Discuss the psychological nature of Eugenie's tragedy, caught as she is between the towering colossus of her father's personality and the pressure of her passion for Charles.

5. Wealth and power: Balzac's story is set in post-revolutionary France when the bourgeoisie aspired to the possession of wealth and power once owned by the aristocracy only. Intrigue was widespread since everyone was greedy to grab both money and power. Describe and discuss in detail the unscrupulous practices revealed to us in this story.
6. Social climbing and fortune hunting plays an important role in this story, discuss this importance - socially and psychologically.
7. Balzac always declared his moral aim in writing the Human Comedy, was to reveal the damage that unprincipled people do to themselves, to family, and to the fabric of society. Discuss this "moral aim" in relation to
 - 1) the founding of Grandet's fortune.
 - 2) Charles Grandet's adventure across the world to seek for gold.
 - 3) Old Grandet's robbing Eugenie of her mother's inheritance.
 - 4) Charles Grandet's betrayal of Eugenie's love.
8. Eugenie, as a rich heiress is seen as a marketable product, describe and discuss the several intrigues that surround Eugenie as she is pursued by rival suitors. What is their hope, and purpose, and what results from the pressures of this intriguing?
- * 9. "Only the simple people can be sincere in their affections" -- discuss this evidence and example.
10. Trace the psychological development of Eugenie Grandet's character from the romantic intensity of her love for Charles to the aged generous benefactress she finally becomes.
11. Discuss the quality of love:
 - 1) parental love
 - 2) romantic love (passion)
 - 3) love of gold (materialism)
 - 4) love of honour
 - 5) sublimated love
 - 6) religious love (fervour)
 - 7) love of service (devotion)
 - 8) love of wisdom
 - 9) love for others (sacrificial)
 - 10) self-love

circus people
bound together out of need

circus managers vs. Bounderby.

5. Health and power: Bounderby's story is set in post-revolutionary France when the bourgeoisie applied to the possession of wealth and power once owned by the aristocracy only. In this was what most states everyone was greedy for and both money and power. Describe and discuss the role of the circus managers practices revealed to us.
6. Social climbing and fortune hunting plays an important role in this story, discuss this importance - socially and psychologically.
7. Bounderby always declared his moral aim in writing the "Human Comedy" was to reveal the damage that unprincipled people do to themselves, to family, and to the fabric of society. Discuss this "moral aim" in relation to:
 - 1) the founding of Bounderby's fortune.
 - 2) Charles Bounderby's adventures across the world to seek for gold.
 - 3) Old Bounderby's robbing Eugenia of her mother's inheritance.
 - 4) Charles Bounderby's betrayal of Eugenia's love.
8. Eugenia, as a rich heiress is seen as a marketable product, describe and discuss the several intrigues that surround Eugenia as she is pursued by rival suitors. What is their hope, and purpose, and what results from the presence of this intriguing?
9. "Only the simple people can be sincere in their affections" - discuss this evidence and example.
10. Trace the psychological development of Eugenia Bounderby's character from the romantic intensity of her love for Charles to the aged generous benevolence she finally becomes.
11. Discuss the quality of love:
 - 1) parental love
 - 2) romantic love (passion)
 - 3) love of gold (materialism)
 - 4) love of honour
 - 5) selfless love
 - 6) religious love (devotion)
 - 7) love of service (devotion)
 - 8) love of wisdom
 - 9) love for others (selfish)
 - 10) self-love