

thesis

topic sentence

In this novel Gregory ~~also~~ demonstrates how love alters a person, and how love can have a cruel bite. She demonstrates this through three characters, Hannah, Queen Mary, and Elizabeth.

First, love betrays Hannah. She faithfully loves her husband, Daniel, unconditionally, despite the fact that she must live with Daniel's spiteful, vicious mother and sisters. However, after she

discovers that Daniel fathered another woman's child, she leaves. This is a brave move for a woman of that time, and a move that is severely frowned upon by the public.

When Hannah attends church the other church-goers throw her contemptuous looks and, "someone ma[kes] a joke about me coming from England to marry a man and then leave him within three months"

(385). Love turns out as not a beautiful, kind thing for Hannah. Gregory uses this betrayal to show how stupidly people act and how unkind love can be. Secondly, love destroys Queen Mary

in a case similar to Hannah's, yet much further disastrous. Mary quickly and completely falls in love with Phillip of Spain. For a time he plays the game, marries her, and they attempt to create a family. However, after no success he grows tired of Mary, and begins to look to other women, particularly, Elizabeth. Mary tells Hannah, "Nobody will ever know how much I have loved him. And now you tell me that he is planning to marry my worst enemy when I am dead. He is looking forward to my death and his life after it" (468). Prince Phillip betrays Mary despite her undying love for him. Gregory uses Mary to further her idea that love can be a bitter emotion, full of hurt, pain, and suffering.

background

transition/ continuation of topic sentence

context

evidence

commentary

Thesis: Acting and inaction are the framework upon which madness and corruption are built.

- Murder of Gonzago
- Soliloquy about theatre
- Players

Laertes pretends he is going to have a fair fight

Claudius as an "innocence" act

Hamlet's madness as an act

iambic pentameter →
Hamlet is constantly acting

Polonius was an actor
once

performance shines a light on truth

Starts acting, but the consequences are cruel → beyond acting now → into madness

"Seem madam! Nay, it is; I know not seems"

Without the pretense of acting, Hamlet might have been stopped sooner; we might not have patience w/ his actions
• Hamlet reveals to the audience that he is pretending so we are willing to go along w/ his plot

Although Hamlet says he is only acting, the consequences of his behavior indicate true madness.

After slaying Polonius, Hamlet blames "thou wretched, rash, intruding fool" rather than himself, the murder (III.iv.32).

When an action, whether pretend or not, results in a death and the perpetrator is so entirely disconnected and unconcerned, perhaps the "pretend" madness

is real. Hamlet believes so fully
that he is merely acting that he
blames others & cannot see that
he has reached a point of
true madness.