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Dialectical Journal for Cossette

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| Quote and Page # | Paraphrase | Analysis |
| “The pretty little creature gave one a desire to bite her cherry cheeks. We can say nothing of her eyes except they must have been very large, and were, and were fringed with superb lashes. She was asleep. She was sleeping in the absolute confiding slumber peculiar for her age. A mother’s arms are made of tenderness, and sweet sleep blesses the child who lies therein” (Hugo 36). | Cosette is a beauty in the eyes of Fantine. She admires how her daughter looks in her arms. She also admires how her daughter sleeps. | This is an awesome description of a baby. The author took a lot of time to capture the detail that was his vision of Cosette. She is the light of the book. |
| The Thenardiers began to look upon the little girl as a child which they sheltered for charity, and treated her as such. Her clothes being gone, they dressed her in castoff garments of the little Thenardiers that is rags” (Hugo Page 41). | The Thenardiers saw Cosette as a burden, and treated her as if she was never wanted. With the money that Fantine gave them, they did not buy her anything. | It would be like the Thenardiers to take in a girl that they didn’t want. Instead of taking care of her, they treated her like crap. It is really sad. |
| “Cosette could not stir that she did not draw upon herself a hailstorm of undeserved and severe chastisements” (Hugo 42). | The fact that Cosette did not know why her mom gave her to the Thenardiers. She was treated better than the dog but worse than the cat. | I don’t feel that Cosette should be treated like this. It is also sad that she did not know why this is happening to her. I would never treat a little girl like that. |
| “It will be remembered that Cosette was useful to the Thenardiers in two ways: they got pay from the mother and work from the child” (Hugo 130). | Fantine basically payed the Thenardiers to use Cosette as a live in slave. They got free work and then free money. | It is disgusting how the Thenardiers are using Cosette and Fantine, but it would be like them because they are low lives and will get their payback eventually. |
| “Cosette was musing sadly; for though she was only eight years old, she had already suffered so much that she mused with the mournful air of an old woman” (Hugo 132). | Cosette had a long life of misery. In her eight years of misery, she grew old and acted as an old woman would. | In this day and age, we are blessed. I don’t think I could imagine the sort of treatment that Cosette received from the Thenardiers. It really makes the book title stand out. |
| “My child, that is very heavy for you which you carrying there.” Cosette raised her head and answered: “Yes, monsieur.” “Give it to me,” the man continued. “I will carry it for you.” Cosette let go of the bucket. The man walked along with her. “It is very heavy, indeed,” said he to himself” (Hugo 138). | Cosette was surprised to see that in this world of misery, there was one person that could be able to help her. She didn’t exactly know how to respond. | Well, this is good. Someone if finally helping poor Cosette. She really needs someone like him |
| “Cosette followed him without difficulty. She felt fatigue no more. From time to time, she raised her eyes toward this man with a sort of tranquility and inexpressible confidence. She had never been taught to burn toward Providence and to pray. However, she felt in her bosom something that resembled hope and joy, and which rose toward heaven” (Hugo 140). | She was thankful that someone could help her with the heavy bucket. She looked at him with amazement. | Cosette finally feels better. She felt in her heart that she deserved better than what she was getting. I think she feels relieved. This is a turning point in the book for Cosette. |
| “Cosette was ugly. Happy, she might, perhaps, have been pretty. Cosette was thin and pale; she was nearly eight years old, but one would hardly have thought her six” (Hugo 142-143). | Cosette was malnourished, ugly and no one looked at her as something beautiful anymore. | It’s sad to see a girl that is so pretty turn ugly just by how she is treated. The Thenardiers should be ashamed of themselves, but they never will because they have no shame in doing what they are doing. |
| “These four walls were, hence fourth, the world to him. Within them he could see enough of the sky to be calm, and enough of Cosette to be happy” (Hugo148). | Cosette was his world. He would do anything to keep her safe and happy. | I think that Jean Valjean will do anything to keep his promise to Fantine, Cosette deserves to be treated like a princess too. |
| “She wept no more, she cried no more, she had the appearance of no longer daring to breathe” (Hugo 150). | Cosette was happy, and turning into a beautiful girl again, like she was when Fantine held her. | I feel that Jean Valjean is the best thing that Cosette ever got. He makes her happy and She makes him happy. |
| “She called him Father, and knew him by no other name” (Hugo 154). | Cosette now saw Jean Valjean as her father because he saved her from the Thenardiers. | This is a good thing for Cosette, she needs someone like Jean Valjean in her life. |
| “Cosette was going away. With whom? She was ignorant. Where? She knew not. All she understood was, that she was leaving behind the Thenardiers chophouse. Nobody had thought of bidding her good-by, nor had she of bidding good-by to anybody. She went out of that house hated and hating” (Hugo 157). | I think this quote mean that Cosette did not know where she was going, but she didn’t care where she was going. As long as she was away from the Thenardiers. They hate that she is leaving because she was their built in slave. The Thernardiers also received money for keeping her. Why would they want her to leave? She hated them for the many wrong doings that they did to her. | Let’s be honest, if you were in the care of the Thenardiers, wouldn’t you want to leave by any means? I could understand why she had hatred for them. I could also see a different perspective. Instead of feeling that Cosette is getting away from her enemys, she was given a new chance at life. This is why Cosette represents the meaning of hope. |
| “She had not only grown; she had become idealized. As three April days are enough for certain trees to put on a covering of flowers, so six months had been enough for her to put on a mantle of beauty” (Hugo 237). | Cosette had grown up, and she blossomed. She went from being a malnourished little girl to a girl who was taken care of. She is now beautiful because of the love that she is getting from Jean Valjean. She did not just have a quick change, it happened over a span of a couple months. | Cosette had grown up, and she blossomed. She went from being a malnourished little girl to a girl who was taken care of. She is now beautiful because of the love that she is getting from Jean Valjean. She did not just have a quick change, it happened over a span of a couple months. |
| “In six months the little girl had become a young woman; that was all. Nothing is more frequent than this phenomenon. There is a moment when girls bloom out in a twinkling, and become roses all at once.” (Hugo 237) | Cosette has grown up real fast, and she was radiating from all of her beauty. |  |
| “She was indeed of a marvelous beauty. The only remark which could be made, that would resembled a criticism, is that the contradiction between her look, which was sad, and her smile, which was joyous, gave to her countenance something a little wild, which produced this effect, that at certain moments this sweet face became strange without ceasing to be charming” (Hugo 241). | Cosette was pretty on the outside, but looked sad from the inside. Marius was in love. He just could not figure out his attraction to her. How could someone so pretty be so unhappy? |  |
| “She seemed more beautiful than she had ever seemed before, Beautiful with a beauty which combined all of the woman with all of the angel, a beauty which would have made a Petrarch sing and Dante kneel” (Hugo 242). | Cosette was beautiful. She was an angel sent from God. | This quote is a total turnaround from how she was perceived in the beginning of the novel. She has to know that she is something special in this novel. |

Don’t worry I’m going to finish the rest of the quotes and then add the ones from St. Denis and Jean Valjean.

Quote: "So long as there shall exist, by reason of law and custom, a social condemnation, which, in the face of civilization, artificially creates hells on earth, and complicates a destiny that is divine, with human fatality; so long as the three problems of the age-the degradation of man by poverty, the ruin of woman by starvation, and the dwarfing of childhood by physical and spiritual night-are not solved; so long as, in certain regions, social asphyxia shall by possible; in other words, and from a yet more extended point of view, so long as ignorance and misery remain on earth, books like this cannot be useless. Hauteville House, 1862"

Paraphrase: This quote is stating the morals of man and the truths that are in this time period. The people of this time are in a hell. At many points in the book, the characters are sad, miserable, but then there are points when people are happy, and it seems like things are looking up for them.

There is much evil and despair in this world; however Cosette is the one person that makes things better in this book. She represents change, beauty, and how a young girl should be. She somehow makes the people around her less miserable. When she was young, she was malnourished and miserable. Her appearance and spirit was “dwarfed” by the treatment from the Thenardiers. In the end, she is miserable no more by the love and treatment from Marius and Jean Valjean. The destiny of Cosette was tested when she was put in the hands of the Thenardiers. However, through the power of Jean Valjean she ended up being a beautiful young woman, and then later a bride.

This quote is very powerful; I had to read it at least nine times to even start to understand it. It truly captivates the theme of this book, which was misery.