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The Sorrows of Young Werther

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1. Lotte is right, in my opinion, our desires as human beings are conditional. People want what they can imagine themselves having. When it comes to matters of love it is a choice as we tend to have preferences in terms of physic, personality and even social status.
2. Foreshadowing has the effect of intriguing the reader, one is curious to find out if the hints given will play out as they interpreted them. In a letter dated may 22, Werther describes the advantage of death saying "...can leave this prison whenever he likes"(Goethe, 13). In another instance while the three Lotte, Albert and Werther were on a walk, he exaggerates a point when Lotte asks about the afterlife. He promises her that they indeed will meet and be together there.

3. Goethe was a prominent member of the Storm and Stress movement which stood to oppose the enlightenment cult. They reinforced the power of the human spirit and emotions over the mind (Walz, 8). In the novel Goethe emphasises on individualism showing Werthers specific worldview. He takes this opportunity to show how powerful feelings can be. The storm motif is manifested through Werthers emotional outbreak when he learns of Lottes engagement. He starts to muse in his sorrow taking a philosophical stance on life and death.
4. It is not good to be emotionally unstable as was the case with Werther, it can lead to deadly and destructive behaviour. As humans we have the ability to control our emotions or at least distract ourselves from negative thoughts. Werther lets himself get carried away by his emotions. This behaviour makes him appear desperate and immature. As a man fainting and causing several embarrassing situations reduced his chances of wooing fair ladies like Lotte.
5. Werthers personality can be described as narcissistic as he mostly acted out of self interest. Having experienced love at first sight, he was caught up in a fantasy so far as to desire another life where he could be with his beloved. Like the river god, Werther would rather live in a fairy tale rather than admit to reality. In fact it bothered him so much that he yearned to be free.
6. Lotte represents the unattainable desires people have in this life. Their relationship with Werther symbolises the strife between man and fortune. Always near what he desires Werther is frustrated that he cannot reach it. When they first meet Lotte is wearing a white dress and a red ribbon, things that symbolise purity and passion respectively. She is indeed much of the angel Werther perceives her to be; she takes care of her family, she is kind and tolerant and loyal to her spouse. Given that society was ruled by men at that time Werthers behaviour is unprecedented. A patriarchal

society is one that follows a male chauvinist idea (Thompson, 13). Referring to her as an angel is a rather non patriarchal approach which in werther's eyes is well deserved.

7. Werther is acting quite childish for an adult. He is unemployed for the most part availing to him a lot of spare time which he uses foolishly. His idea that youths should enjoy all pleasures is also miss leading. When he goes home, he realises that his only pleasure is to be with lotte.
8. Fortune can be quite elusive, what a man desires may not always come to pass. It is true that many things that start off as fun and enjoyable end up having severe consequences. Werther thought he was destined to be with another man's wife; his fancy that brought him peace also drove him mad and killed him.
9. In my opinion, Goethe was very well ahead of his time. What he explains through wethers word's is true even in modern society. Illnesses come in various forms attacking different parts of the body. While some are physically crippled others are mentally handicapped. Mental illness can push someone to act abnormally so i agree that murders and the like are no more than sick individuals.
10. Indeed the novel does paint a rather unpopular image of love. Through werther, goethe elaborate just how destructive love can be. In the end it is as deadly as a disease. The love that werther feels is one sided and doomed to fail even so he is unrelenting to a fault. Such situations play out in life all the time as if fortune mocks man and his desires.
11. Wethers obsession with Lotte was his undoing. Letting his thoughts wander to a woman he could not have only hurt him. Lotte erred when she said that werther only wanted her because she was unavailable. While being preoccupied can be somewhat attractive werther loved her from the moment he saw her. He did not

know at this point that she was already engaged.

12. Goethe insinuates that life may not be what it seems. Through Werther he voices his concerns and world view. He showcases an example of a destructive mindset and what may happen to those who take life for granted.
13. I think Goethe is trying to say that in terms of class, self sacrifice is not always a show of strength. Although Werther decides to live without pomp like many a hero he is still villainous to some extent. He is kicked out of the party because he is distracted by thoughts of Lotte.
14. On this I agree with Werther. People can share knowledge but it is important to have an identity. Our emotions and the way we behave shape who we are. While we may not all share knowledge, we all understand emotions.
15. Werther was by no means a saint. He lived his life as an explorer in mind, he refused to settle in the confines of religion (Goethe, 113). With such a history and yet having taken his own life few religious folks would attend his burial.
16. I think that Werther forced his way into Lotte's life. He identified a weakness in Lotte's relationship and sought to exploit it. As Albert was always away he forced her to get accustomed to him by visiting her daily. Albert loved Lotte more than Werther, he intended to marry her. If Werther had any sense of selfless love, he would have walked away when he realised she was engaged.
17. Werther brought disaster upon himself first by pursuing a hopeless love and secondly by shooting himself. Lotte is not to blame for being virtuous and beautiful is not a sin. Although she gives out the guns, a man determined to end his life has many means.
18. Goethe's contribution to the literary works is a warning. Reading through the novel I thought of how careful you should be with love. The book simply tells us to

guard our hearts and to be vigilant of where our thoughts wander.

19. The final scene is designed to show the shame and bitterness that accompanies such occasions. Werther's shot in his head did not kill him as swiftly as expected, instead he would linger around and suffer a shameful and painful death. The labourers that bury werther are unmoved and no moaners attend the funeral.
20. Werther borrows the ideologies of these formidable writers in his works. I believe he intended to invoke human reasoning through intimate criticism of delusional minds. In the end the novel seems to invoke people to think about the relationships they form.
21. I think the novel is quite scary, it highlights a real issue,love, that affects everyone showing its darkest side.The most pressing question for me concerns what might have happened to Lotte after werther's passing. I would like to believe that she survived and lived happily.

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