

PARAGRAPH ESSAY QUESTIONS

Answer ONE of the following questions in a paragraph of about 15 sentences. You may use the novel to help you think over the question as well as to find and use quotations if you wish. Make sure that you have a main idea sentence (underline) and that you directly support your main idea using transitional expressions. (e.g., “Another difference between *The Scarlet Letter* and *Villette* is . . .”). You have a thirty-minute time limit from the time you have read the question until the time you finish. Set your clock or stop watch.

1. Much of the power and subtlety of Brontë’s novel lies in what she is able to express about characters without directly stating it. Comment briefly how she delineates one of the characters in the first seven chapters and give example passages that suggest the delineation.
2. Lucy Snowe’s disposition contrasts greatly with two prominent characters of the novel, Paulina Mary Home and Ginevra Fanshawe. Mention at least two striking differences between either Luct and Polly or Lucy and Ginerva, and explain the significance of those differences in terms of the novel’s main themes regarding the struggles of life. You may want to mention the respective personalities and attitudes toward life as well as how each of the characters reaction’s to life’s disappointments.
3. Compare and contrast of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *Scarlet Letter* and Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette*. You can discuss anything related to the novels, such as character development, plot, dialog, themes, etc.
4. Do you believe that the relationship between Graham and Polly, despite the difference in ages (sixteen and six), accurately represents the relationship between males and females, in that, as Lucy Snowe remarks to Polly, “*Because he is a boy and you are a girl . . . his nature is strong and gay, and yours is otherwise*”? In other words, are women indeed more emotionally dependent and fragile than men and form much stronger and closer attachments.
5. The narrator, Lucy Snowe, plays an important role in developing the theme of the novel, which involves the hardship of life, especially that of a single woman. The hardships include earning a livelihood and love. After moving from Bretton, Miss Snowe was on her own, with no one to turn to for help. She says, “Thus, there remained no possibility of dependence on others; to myself alone could I look. I know not that I was of a self-reliant or active nature; but self-reliance and exertion were forced upon me by circumstances, as they are upon thousands besides” (Paragraph 3 of Chapter 4). Comment on Lucy Snowe’s comment regarding her return home, about which she says: “[P]icture me, for the next eight years, as a bark slumbering through halcyon weather, in a harbour still as glass—the steersman stretched on the little deck, his face up to heaven, his eyes closed: buried, if you will, in a long prayer. A great many women and girls are supposed to pass their lives something in that fashion; why not I with the rest?”