

Charlotte Brontë's *Villette*

Timed Essay: 30 minutes

Choose one of the following topics and write a one-paragraph essay answer. The paragraph should always contain the following: 1) a main idea that encapsulates what you are trying to communicate through the paragraph, underlined 2) explanation of your answer 3) the paragraph should relate your answer in some way to the novel.

1. There are indications throughout the novel thus far that Lucy Snowe has great affection for John Graham, more so than that of a mere friendship—even though she might not realize it herself. Give some instances of Lucy's veiled affections for Graham and comment on whether or not one can be in love without knowing about it.
2. When judging the portrait of Cleopatra at the museum, John Graham can give a cool-headed objective assessment; however, he is head over heels in love with Ginevra, whom the portrait resembles in the "type" of woman she is. Do you believe that most people cannot exercise rationality and good judgment when judging other people but not their own?
3. How does the disagreement about the pink dress illustrate the character of Lucy Snowe? Does the incident recommend her or show her in a bad light?
4. What pleasure does Lucy get out of going to and being at the concert, and what does this pleasure or lack of it show about her character?
5. When Ginevra laughs at his mother, John Graham staunchly and heroically defends his mother. What does his defense show about his character?