

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

LITERARY ESSAY: THE SCORPIONS

____ **STEP I: EXPLAIN THE FOLLOWING QUOTE IN YOUR WRITING NOTEBOOK. YOU SHOULD WRITE AS MUCH AS YOU CAN ABOUT WHAT THE QUOTE MEANS AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU AGREE WITH IT.**

" IN THIS WORLD GOODNESS IS DESTINED TO BE DEFEATED."

-WALKER PERRY

THE MOVIEGOER, 1962

____ **STEP II: DOES THE SCORPIONS, BY WALTER DEAN MYERS SUPPORT THIS STATEMENT? WHY OR WHY NOT? WHAT EVIDENCE IN THE BOOK EITHER SUPPORTS OR DISPROVES THIS STATEMENT?**

DOES THE BOOK SUPPORT OR DISPROVE THIS STATEMENT?

WHAT EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT SUPPORTS OR DISPROVES THIS STATEMENT?

• CHAPTER # _____

• CHAPTER # _____

• CHAPTER# _____

• CHAPTER # _____

• CHAPTER # _____

____ **STEP III: IN WRITING THE ROUGH DRAFT FOR YOUR ESSAY, BE SURE TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- 1. WHAT DOES WALKER PERCY MEAN BY HIS STATEMENT?**
- 2. DOES THE SCORPIONS SUPPORT OR DISPROVE THE STATEMENT?**
- 3. IN WHAT WAYS AND WITH WHAT TEXTUAL EVIDENCE DOES THE BOOK SUPPORT OR DISPROVE THE STATEMENT?**

FORMATTING: FOLLOW ALL GUIDELINES FOR SCHOLARLY LITERARY ESSAYS.
(ASSERTIVE LANGUAGE, REFERENCE TO THE TITLE/AUTHOR
IN THE INTRODUCTION, TEXTUAL SUPPORT FOR ANY
STATEMENTS MADE, QUOTATION MARKS AROUND LINES
TAKEN STRAIGHT FROM THE TEXT)
ORGANIZE YOUR ESSAY INTO PARAGRAPHS, INCLUDING AN
INTRODUCTION AND A CONCLUSION

“Evil will prevail”

Quote: “In this world goodness is destined to be defeated.”

Walker Percy
The Movie Goer, (1965)

The book Scorpions by Walter Dean Myers supports the statement that, “In this world goodness is destined to be defeated.” I’ve heard it said that, “When under a strong force, it is only a matter of time before deeply influenced or overtaken by that force.” I believe that this book supports both statements. Myers shows the negativity of the streets, and how it affected two young males who were once not familiar to the streets, to the streets turning into killers themselves. The quote is implying that evil will prevail against goodness. In this paper, I will show how evil prevailed in Tito’s, Jamal’s, and Mama’s circumstances.

The book Scorpions shows Jamal, as he gradually becomes a bad person. In the beginning of the book, Jamal shows concern for the well being of his mother. When Mama was greatly negatively affected by Randy’s incarceration, Jamal makes an effort to raise money for Randy’s appeal by starting a job in Chapter 12. In spite of his *positive* endeavor, in Chapter 12 Jamal is fired as a result of his *negative* connection with Angel and Indian. This in conclusion shows how evil prevailed over a person who was once good.

Similarly, negative forces affected Tito. Originally he was an innocent friend of Jamal who despised many of Jamal’s bad choices. This is shown on pg.177 when Tito tells Jamal, “You can’t be a Scorpion,” Tito said, shaking his head. This is also shown when Jamal decides to use the gun to scare Dwayne. However, Tito discouraged it. This shows that Tito knew right from wrong. Yet he uses that same gun he disliked to murder someone. On pg.196 Tito says, “I didn’t want to shoot nobody.” This signifies that he knew what was right because his conscience convicted him. This again shows how evil won against someone who once was good, and then changed them into someone that was bad. In Tito’s case it turned him into a killer!

My final example of how evil prevails is through Mama. When Randy was in jail, Mama put up a fight to get him out. She worked over time for loans from her boss. Towards the end however, she says that Randy will just have to stay in jail. She was defeated! This lastly shows how evil does prevail over good in many cases.

In conclusion, you have read through my three examples how evil overcame the good. In Jamal’s case, he was defeated because his connection with Angel and Indian caused him to lose his job. In Tito’s case, he killed a person which showed how he transformed from innocent, to a killer. Finally in Mama’s case she gave up the fight to get Randy out of jail. All of these examples prove how the book Scorpions supports the statement, “In this world goodness is destined to be defeated.”

Quick Write Literary Essay

State the title, author and a brief summary of what happened in the story. Write a short thesis statement about what you believe to be true about what the author is saying. .

Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 should cite evidence from the text that supports the thesis statement.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Write a conclusion sentence and restate the thesis statement.
