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LCW-C

Literary Essay Outline

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Literary Themes in *Beauty and the Beast*

A. Hook: The title of the popular film, *Beauty and the Beast*, is the first hint that its characters won't always get along.

1. A "beauty" denotes a gentle, loving person, while a "beast" produces images of horror and general unfriendliness.
2. However, the main plot of *Beauty and the Beast* tackles the friction directly.
3. Thesis: Through its themes of community, identity, and sacrifice, *Beauty and the Beast* shows that love is a powerful force that can unite people in conflict.

B. There are two primary communities in *Beauty and the Beast*, and while they are at odds with one another, they are united within.

1. Description of the town
2. Description of the castle
3. How Belle perceives them and moves between them

C. How one identifies within a community helps shape who he or she is.

1. Describe the Prince and how he became the Beast
2. Briefly describe Lumiere, Cogsworth, and Mrs. Potts in their enchanted state and how their human characteristics translated.

3. Explain how Belle doesn't feel like the town is her home based on her personal identity and how she feels more "herself" once she's settled in at the castle.

D. It is because of her deep love for her father that Belle sacrifices herself for him by switching places with him in the castle.

1. The servants in the castle continue to sacrifice their lives for the Beast, which shows they harbor a deep devotion to him.
2. Ultimately this is something the Beast must learn to do. Give example of when he realizes this key point.
3. Sacrifice is the ultimate expression of love.

E. Conclusion: *Beauty and the Beast* is a classic Disney film that spotlights common themes of adventure and appearances, that things aren't always what they seem.

1. However, it hones in on specific themes that teach viewers the overwhelming impact of authentic love and devotion.
2. While *Beauty and the Beast* produces the "happily ever after" device, like many Disney movies, there are still lessons to be learned about understanding how community works, exploring one's personal identity, and choosing to sacrifice oneself for the love of another.