

# PERSONAL RESPONSE ESSAY EXAMPLE

Every day we read that fewer and fewer people are ready to marry, and even the concluded marriages - break down! What is the cause - too much egoism, too little love, difficulty expressing feelings; too big and unrealistic expectations? Everything perceived in everyday life is linked to the theme of the novel by German and Russian romanticist - Johanna Wolfgang Goethe, author of the epic novel The sorrows of young Werther - and Mikhail Lermontov - author of the first Russian prose novel – A hero of our time.

Both authors prevail in the literature of their time - J. W. Goethe in the German movement "Sturm und Drang" (epoch of the young genius) and M. J. Lermontov in Russian realism of the first half of the 19th century.

The novels are focused on the characters. Two people, Werther and Pechorin, are showing an exaggeration of behavior. Goethe gives us a man overwhelmed by love, and Lermontov one with an inability to love. The enclosed texts discuss the relationship between the main characters according to marriage. They point to the possibility of deviating from average behavior. Goethe's Werther ironizes his destiny: " I thank you, Albert, for having deceived me. I waited for the news that your wedding day was fixed; and I intended on that day, with solemnity, to take down Charlotte's profile from the wall, and to bury it with some other papers I possess!". Because despite the decision to forget the one who is in the heart, her picture is still in the same place because Lota is still in Werther's heart. Werther loves too much. On the contrary, Pechorin could easily get the consent of the knight. But his love experience is different: "In my place, another would have offered Princess Mary son coeur et sa fortune; but over me the word "marry" has a kind of magical power. However passionately

I love a woman, if she only gives me to feel that I have to marry her -- then farewell, love! My heart is turned to stone, and nothing will warm it anew". I notice that both heroes exaggerate in expressing their emotions. There are a lot of pronounced sentences, accumulations and exhortations, of long and significant breaks, marked by trophies: "am prepared for any other sacrifice but that; my life twenty times over, nay, my honor I would stake on the fortune of a card . . . but my freedom I will never sell. Why do I prize it so highly? What is there in it to me? For what am I preparing myself? What do I hope for from the future? . . . In truth, absolutely nothing. It is a kind of innate dread, an inexplicable prejudice".

Examples are monolithic and confessional texts in which characters directly address themselves or close-minded persons in an elevated emotional mood. Werther writes letters to Wilhelm's friend (the chosen letter was written on February 20th and is in the second half of the novel), Pechorin entrusts himself to his diary (the chosen fragment was dated June 25 and is part of the five novels). Both heroes ironize themselves and others (Werther to Albert, Pechorin to himself and his nobility). It is precisely the mixing of the characteristics of literary genres and the kind of romance poetry: the proliferation of the prose, the dramatic structure of relations, but also the discourse types of discourse characteristic of discourse types (letter, diary, monologue, discussion, and the like)

I observe dark meetings, characters mention hell, swearing. These are all features of the new literary epoch - romanticism and the new literary heroes by which they have shaped the social and literary worldview and facial features - Wertherism in German literature and the type of extinct man in Russian. One of them tells us that "there is no cure in the world" and that suicide is a legitimate way of interrupting life expectancy, and the other represents a man born in the lap of Russian romanticism - a man from Pushkin's "Eugene Onegin" who continues to live in the writings of Russian realities - especially Turgenev's lyrical descriptions of the landscape and in Gogol's stories that follow the ideas of grotesque, dark-eyed and timid, which is also attractive to today's readers.