

Essay Outline: Those Who Walked Away from Omelas
by Ursula Le Guin

- I. Intro - Essential lessons from the Omelas story
 - A. **Hook:** In a society fighting for different claims of social justice, whose 'justice' should stand?
 - B. **Topic:** Omelas is a messed-up world where some rights are elevated and some are suppressed
 - C. **Thesis Statement:** Those who truly love justice do not rejoice in injustice
 - D. **Objective:** Bridge the gap between the 'then and there' of Omelas and the 'here and now' of our postmodern society to properly understand the message of the author.

- II. Body - Evils of the System and the Emancipating Solutions
 - A. Ethical Paralysis: The problem of those who stayed
 - Topic Statement: Ideology that ensures passivity
 - Then and there (in Omelas): The catastrophic ideology of the 'greater good'
 - B. Esoteric Abandonment: The problem of those who walked away
 - Topic Statement: Power dynamic that ensures abandonment
 - Then and there: Those who grew weary and faint-hearted walk away
 - C. Evasive Person: The power no one dares to question
 - Topic statement: Identify whom we should seek justice from
 - Then and there: Fearing for 'that day and hour when all the prosperity would be destroyed'
 - D. Empowerment, Engagement and Ethical Action: The plea for solution
 - Topic Statement: Petition is key
 - Then and there: No one dared to move from lament to advocacy
 - E. Empowering Ideology: Imago Dei, the genesis of human rights
 - This is what was lacking in Omelas

- III. Conclusion - Existential struggle in the parallels of our post-modern society
 - What are the parallels of the evils of Omelas to our postmodern world?
 - What are our excuses do we rehearse for the suffering of the few for the greater good?
 - Beholding the evils of the system. Do we only lament in our 'Omelas', or cry out from and for 'Omelas'? Silent upon beholding the abyss
 - What power dynamics cause us to walk away? What are we afraid to lose?
 - The audacity to question that leads to petition and action. autocratic hold of society
 - Unseat the comfortable, encourage the voiceless. scream in pain and invoke our petition.