

**Freshman Papers 2000 Winner**  
**Trina Banick**

Words from Trina:

Since the "classics" have been my passion since I began reading Austen and Dickens when I was about nine years old, I was able to quickly decide on a topic for my first essay in Professor Perret's Nonfiction Writing class last semester. Having read much of the literary criticism of the great novels that have so long been a source of pleasure to me, I was eager to delve into my own critical analysis of my two favorite books. In writing this essay, I not only enjoyed myself immensely but also learned a great deal about the depth and power of both novels. As with any major research project (and the writing of this paper involved intensive research as much as actual composition), I believe that I myself learned more about my topic than the readers of my essay will. I am now convinced that the true scope of any great piece of writing cannot be fully understood until it has been read, re-read, and seriously contemplated time and again.

I am grateful to Professor Perret for giving me the chance to discover for myself WHY these novels and their authors have been loved and revered for over a century. As for writing in general, I hope to continue to sharpen my writing skills during my remaining years at LFC. When I was considering which college to attend last year, one of the most appealing aspects of Lake Forest was the intense emphasis that its professors place on developing their students' composition skills. As a business and communications major, I realize the necessity of good writing and communicating abilities in the business world and, indeed, in all aspects of life. To add a little biographical information about myself, I am 17 years old and entered Lake Forest College a year early. I was homeschooled from kindergarten through high school, and aside from reading and writing, my greatest interest is music. I play the violin and piano and am concertmaster of the Lake Forest College Chamber Orchestra. Thank you again for this great honor.

**A Comparison of the Heroes of *Jane Eyre* and *Oliver Twist***

*Prepared for "Non-Fiction Writing," Professor Jacqueline Perret*

Ever since I first read Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, when I was ten years old, it has been one of my favorite novels. At first the powerfully emotional and deeply absorbing plot primarily inspired my enthusiasm for the book. Once into the first chapter, I could not put the book down and found myself getting up in the middle of the night, just to discover how an especially exciting passage had been resolved. The tale certainly possesses an abundance of the elements that typically interest girls in the beginning stages of adolescence—a plain young woman's passionate love for a mysterious and brooding man old enough to be her father; a blood-curdling scream emanating from the upper story of an English manor house in the middle of the night; a lunatic secretly locked up in the attic by her husband. All of these details sound like the makings for a romantic melodrama or a thrilling mystery novel, and perhaps these are the aspects of the book that caught my attention the first time I read the book. However,

