

**In *Twisted*, there are major themes of guilt, conformity or rebellion.**

Guilt: awareness of having done something wrong.

Conformity: following what other people are expected to do in a group or society.

Rebellion: open opposition toward a person or group in authority.

**Tyler Miller—Quotes— At the beginning of the novel, the author provides clues about Tyler’s unstable character.**

It was not Tyler’s fault that Chip pushed him into the waiter who spilled the glasses. Then, Bethany was seriously injured. He is programmed by his father to feel his guilt.

“Before we left, I found one of the doctors who had helped me and quietly asked him to slit my throat.

The guy said no and suggested I talk to my family doctor about antidepressants” (20).

Tyler is a complicated character because he rebels, but then he shows that he is suicidal.

“I rolled over onto my back and prayed again to every god I had ever heard of to let me die. Quick and painless. *Please*.

Death is funny, when you think about it. Everybody does it, but nobody knows how. My grandpa Miller just wouldn’t die, no matter how sick he got. Grandma Barnett dropped dead in front of the canned vegetables at the Safeway.

Did they like it? Was it a relief?” (29).

Tyler’s thoughts show that he is depressed because he enjoys thinking about death.

“And the pictures would flash over and over in my mind like a demented video with no music, just bodies falling off bridges and planes flying into skyscrapers and fires and ropes and guns and driving very fast. Unbuckling my seat belt. Aiming for the cliff at the granite quarry. Stomping the accelerator. Passing ninety when I hit the edge. Flying, then plunging to the bottom, the car bouncing off the slabs of granite, spinning, crumpling. The explosion.

Thinking about death relaxed me, as usual.

My open cuts dripped on the sheets.

*Gone.*” (30).

After Bethany shows her acceptance of Tyler after her accident, he wants to rebel against his father, and fight Chip, but he conforms because he knows his father will be angry if he fights Chip.

“I cross the kitchen in two steps. I put my hand around his throat and lift him off the ground with one arm. I heave him across the room. He slides the length of the counter and lands on the kitchen table. The fruit bowl crashes on his head, and an apple lands in his mouth. Little stars dance in a circle over him and his eyes roll up and....” (41).

Tyler becomes angry because he is failing school because his father makes him take difficult courses. It is frightening that he has so many suicidal thoughts in his head.

“It had flown into an office tower in downtown Tampa. Twenty stories off the ground. Smack. Nothing exploded, nobody in the building was hurt, but a massive steel-and-glass wall had the tail end of an airplane sticking out of it. It took a long time before the reporters would admit it, but the teenager flying the plane was dead on impact. DOI.

I watched the replays obsessively, trying to figure out what the kid’s last second felt like. Did he feel anything? Did he feel everything? Which would be worse?” (57).

**Part 1—Tyler Miller—Quotes— During the middle of the novel, the author shows that Tyler conforms and rebels. Include the quotes, and explain their importance.**

**Part 2—Tyler Miller—Quotes—At the end of the novel, Tyler becomes a dynamic character. Include the quotes and explain their importance.**

Categories	Developing		Accomplished			Exemplary		
	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A	A+	A++
	60	67	70	75	83	86	93	100
Insight Content	-Includes some quotes that connect to the themes. -Tries to include examples from the middle and the end of the novel. -Some explanation of the quotes may be unclear or incomplete.	-Includes at least 4 accurate quotes that connect to the themes. -Includes examples from the middle and the end of the novel. -Clearly explains the importance of the quotes.	-Includes at least 5 effective quotes that connect to the themes. -Includes examples from the middle and end of the novel. -Insightfully explains the importance of the quotes. -Takes risks.					
Organization	-Tries to format the work like the quotes from the beginning of the book. -Work must be edited more carefully.	-Formats the work like the quotes from the beginning of the book. -There are few errors.	-Formats work like the quotes from the beginning of the book. -There are little or no errors.					

**Twisted—Bill Miller (Tyler’s father) Character Analysis**

Tyler’s father insists that his son follow many strict rules that are difficult to conform to.

“Miller men were disciplined. Miller men followed rules. Miller men toughed it out; they ate dirt and went for the kill.

The last one was a real quote. Dad said it to me when I was eleven, after I lost the Little League championship. (21)”

Tyler tries to tell his father that his school course load is too difficult, but his father will not change the strict expectations.

“ ‘You expect me to wave a magic wand and make everything all better. Dad will talk to the teacher. Dad will pay for the lawyer. Daddy fix.’ He spat the words out. (55)”

**Part 3—Bill Miller—Quotes— During the middle of the novel, the author shows how the father tries to make Tyler conform to his rules.**

**Part 4—Bill Miller—Quotes—At the end of the novel, Bill Miller becomes a dynamic character. Include the quotes and explain their importance.**

Categories	Developing		Accomplished			Exemplary		
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