**Good Thesis statement: Through his characterization of Milo, Heller reveals many of the flaws of capitalism and paints it as a much more corrupt, crooked, and power-hungry system.**

**Better Thesis Statement: Through his use of Milo as a symbol of unchecked greed and capitalism, Heller reveals that when left without restraints, capitalism can morph into a crooked, dehumanizing system ripe for the abuse of power.**

**Sample Body Paragraph:**

**First of all, Milo’s character helps portray the idea that capitalism leads to dehumanization and the abuse of power.** **Throughout the novel, Milo becomes more and more obsessed with making a profit. The more he money he makes, the more he expands his syndicate and the more he loses his morality. Near the end of book, Yossarian asks for Milo’s help with finding Nately’s sister so he can help her. However, Milo, ever the business man, gets distracted by the opportunity to make some extra money by smuggling illegal tobacco. Yossarian pleads with Milo to help him find the girl, “But Milo was deaf and kept pushing forward, nonviolently but irresistibly, sweating, his eyes, as though he were in the grip of a blind fixation, burning feverishly, and his twitching mouth slavering” (Heller 420). Here, Milo is characterized as being almost possessed with his desire to pursue the money making venture. The words “sweating”, “twitching”, and “blind fixation” create a vivid image of Milo being obsessed and on the hunt for money. He sounds more like a beast on the prowl than a man. This characterization of Milo helps Heller demonstrate the blinding effect capitalism can have on people. Like Milo, they become so absorbed in making money that they completely forget other values. The animalistic description also portrays the idea that Milo has lost his humanity—he fights to earn his ‘prey’, the smuggled tobacco and income it will bring, at any cost. The moral, human thing to do in this situation would be to help his friend, but Milo ignores Yossarian and his pleas to help him find the young girl and instead vigorously throws himself into the task of making a profit off of illegal tobacco.**

**Milo’s greed and obsession with money further exposes the pitfalls of capitalism and its tendency to create a desire for power.**  Capitalism allows him to objectify everything and put it all into pure dollars and cents and he illustrates that money becomes greater to him than all things people tend to value the most. For example, after the mission to bomb the German bridge turned deadly because Milo had warned the Germans of the attack, Yossarian and Milo get in an argument. Milo explains, “I’m just trying to put it [the war] on a businesslike basis. Is anything wrong with that? You know, a thousand dollars ain’t such a bad price for a medium bomber and a crew. If I can persuade the Germans to play me a thousand dollars for every plane they shoot down, why shouldn’t I take it?” (Heller 262). Milo sold out his own squadron simply to make more money. This goes against all senses of patriotism, brotherhood, loyalty, and trust since he has betrayed his own country, yet, as his rhetorical questions show, Milo does not see any problem with it. Capitalism and greed lead him to believe that if he can get paid for something, he should seize that opportunity. Why shouldn’t he? Characterizing him to have no compassion or sense of right and wrong about dealing with his country’s enemy further demonstrates the blinding effect of capitalism and how dangerous it can be. In this case, it cost many men their lives. Milo further shows his loss of compassion when he and Yossarian observe Snowden’s funeral procession as it passes by the pair. When asked what happened, Yossarian explains that Snowden was killed, to which Milo responds, “That’s terrible…It really is terrible… And it will get even worse if the mess halls don’t agree to buy my cotton. Yossarian, what’s the matter with them? Don’t they realize it’s their syndicate?” (Heller 270). Although Milo has an initial reaction of apparent sympathy, it is short lived before he changes the subject to his own personal issue of not being able to sell the cotton which he had acquired an excess of and was having difficulty selling. This quick shift shows how little Milo cares about the death of a soldier—his mind is too preoccupied with his business endeavors and avoiding taking a loss in profit, further showing how capitalism has warped his values.