

Myth of a classless essay



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The myth of a classless American society coupled with social stratification impedes race

relations in the U. S. far more than any racial differences. The never ending struggle of the

have-nots to become one of the haves produces a frustration and feeling of oppression

that acts as a catalyst for spawning racial tensions. Minorities see the majority of wealth in

the hands of the white population and feel that the wealth is unevenly distributed. Whites

hear of government programs for minorities and feel as if they are lazy or just looking for a

handout. This occurs and stereotypes are formed. Combine all of this with the United States

system of dual welfare and the perfect environment for racial strife is created. In our

classless society of false hope the working class and poor are continually seeking

opportunities to excel that just aren't there. They have been led to believe that intelligence

and ambition are key contributors to one's success. This belief lays blame on the

unsuccessful themselves, even if they do possess ambition and intelligence.

These people

are in a never ending cycle of struggle, followed by minimal rewards, which eventually

produces a frustration that sometimes leads to desperate measures. The Summer Stragedy, The

Filling Station, Southeast Arkanasia, The Southern Road and Mending Wall are the stories and

poems that depict the life of a different classes people in a society.

One way you can read Mending Wall by Robert Frost is that it is about a man who rebuilds

the wall seperating his property from his neighbours. This man, this person created by

Gray doesn't seem to believe there is a use for the wall as he the neighbour is all pine

and I the persona am apple orchard, but his neighbour believes that good fences make

good neighbours. The persona tries to change his neighbour's opinion by trying to put a

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notion in his head? but his neighbour seems to just ignore him. So the person gets annoyed

and thinks of him as an old-stone savage. This is a very simple situation which we can all

relate to. But, if we read deeper into the poem we may find the meanings that Robert Frost

wanted us to see. Firstly, as we know that this persona is against the building of walls

where not necessary we find that it is this persona that initiates the re-building of the wall.

I let my neighbour know beyond the hill. This gives the reader something to think about.

It puts questions in the reader's mind as to why he would initiate this if he doesn't think it's

necessary. One reason may be that this persona enjoys the company of his neighbour – but

he gets frustrated with him. Maybe this person is a lonely person and any company is good

company. They meet to walk the line. Maybe through mending the wall between them

they are mending their friendship. These are all viable options and as we read further into the

poem we may understand to a greater extent why he does this. When the two start building

the wall the reader may notice that words such as we and our are used giving the feeling

of cooperation and companionship. The persona once calls this task an outdoor game which

connotes feelings of enjoyment, cooperation, competition. The fact that they walk the line

one on a side gives a visual image in the readers mind and may remind them of a tennis

game. I must emphasize that what is being told in the poem is from the personals point of

view, not directly Frost's, so the reader must beware and realise that it is possible that

the persona is wrong in some of his comments. There where it is we do not need the wall.

This comment being straight to the point makes the reader feel as if the persona is denying

the fact that it is the wall that brings the two men together to cooperate with one another and

to converse with one another (to a certain extent). The line directly after this comment

segregates the two from one another by contrasting the type of people they are with each

other. He is all pine and I am all apple orchard. the fact that this statement comes directly

after the comment on the uselessness of the wall suggests that it is these kind of attitudes

that puts a barrier between people thus segregating them from one another.

Personification

of the personas apple trees is used to explain to the reader just how much this persona

undermines his neighbour. My apple trees will never get across, and eat the cones under his

pinetrees. Even though this comment is light-hearted and almost humorous it gives the reader

the impression that the person thinks of himself as a more intelligent person than his

neighbour thus feeling that he needs to explain why the wall is unnecessary.

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The roots of human nature are sunk deep into our history and experiences.

When in our own

lives we are to find the basis of our human nature, we must look to our early years, the

formative years. Now take for example if we placed a newborn in the wild or in a high-class,

well-mannered, wealthy family. The human nature of the newborn in the wild will be exactly

that, wild and chaotic. While on the other hand the newborn in the well-mannered society

will be well mannered and moralistic. However, in the stories The Summer Stragedy, the

description of the old couples and the dialogues between Jennie and Old Jeff Patton reveal

the life of family who live among the lower class of society. Human nature is defined by

the values that are taught and the values that society defines, if there are no societal values,

human nature is doomed and lessened to that of wolves.