

# Passing by nella larsen



Passing (the act) The act of appearing to be white and not being white

(crossing the color line) What makes passing possible? Miscegenation:

mixture of genes, not 100% black or white. What are 2 reasons that make

passing desirable? 1. Social / economic opportunity

2. Survival (Jim Crow laws in South) What 3 actions make passing a national

obsession? 1. One-drop rule

2. Rhinelander / Jones case

3. Eugenics Anxieties Define the one-drop rule If ANY of your ancestors are

black, everyone after is not PURE, they're black Define the Eugenics

Anxieties Threat to the white race, good gene pool What was Nella Larsen's

nationality? White mother and Danish West-Indian father What was Nella

Larsen most known for? Heightened interest in all things psychological. " 3rd-

person focalized," one character not multiple characters. Spoken through

Irene " selfish"; " cold"; " hard"; " catlike"; " theatrical"; " manipulative"; "

superior" (6) (1) Passing by Nella Larsen

(2) Clare Kendry's description through Irene's eyes. What does Irene think of

Clare's passing? Intriguing but a race betrayal " safe"; " maternal"; " selfless";

" allegiant to race, defender of racial causes, and proud of blackness" (1)

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(2) Irene Redfield's self description. T/F? What 3 traits does Irene say Clare

has that she also has herself? 1. Race betrayal

2. Selfish / Manipulative

3. Superior" Nevertheless, she felt anger, fear. It wasn't that she was

ashamed of being a Negro, or even of having it declared. It was the idea of

being ejected from any place... that disturbed her." (1) Passing by Nella

Larsen

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(2) What Irene criticizes Clare for, she is herself

(3) Irene passes at rooftop of the Drayton. Evidence of an affair with Irene's husband and Clare? - Brian is married to Irene, wants Clare

- Brian says sex with you sucks, Irene. Why does it seem Irene killed Clare? -

Irene was angry before the cup shattered, like before Clare fell

- Irene oppresses memory What does Clare dying do for Irene? With Clare

gone, Irene can get back to her life. Clare became reminder of Irene's

contradictions, so she killed her. ONPASSING BY NELLA LARSEN

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