

Katherine mansfield's cup of aanalysis essay



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Katherine Mansfield, an outstanding English short-story writer of the 20th century, was born in New Zealand and died when she was 35. She is the author of a number of excellent short stories which deal with human nature and psychology. The peculiar features of her stories are the symbolic use of objects and incidents. She is usually concerned not so much with the development of the plot but with evoking a certain atmosphere of a certain emotional coloring. Describing her characters she doesn't so much stress what they do, but what they feel.

She is more preoccupied with their inner life, which is naturally revealed through their behavior. Katherine Mansfield is a master of a psychological short-story and that is what she has in common with Chekhov. In fact, she enjoys the reputation of being an English Chekhov.

Before this, I'd like to give a brief information about the content of the story. Scanning the story first, we come across with a rich couple named Rosemary and Philip leading an untroubled, desirable life and they seem to love each other since- we have no implication whether they love each other for money or not – and everything goes well in their lives. Rosemary spends money without getting into trouble and giving no reason or excuse to her husband in doing this.

Everyone in a society admires Rosemary not maybe for her beauty but for her remarkable features such as being interested in current movements from every aspects, seeming as an intelligent young woman, reading the modern books. Philip is not as bright as Rosemary but he makes himself realize as soon as he enters the story towards the end. Apart from the couple, there is

a girl who meets Rosemary in a street by asking for money to have a cup of tea then is picked up by her to have a cup of tea at her home and begins to be directed by her.

We infer this from the fact that whenever Rosemary wants her to enter the scene she is there but when, at the last scene, Rosemary is jealous of her, the girl is easily disappeared without giving no sign for us to follow the reason of her disappearance. And we have one more character having a part in the story: the shop man. He is also under the effect of Rosemary; we can understand this from his polite behaviors which are made obvious in the text with circumstantial features. But he is the person also who utilizes by the weakness of her.

He tries to draw her attraction on the enamel box and succeeds it; he promises her to keep the box for her because he knows her and he knows that she will come to buy it; she has the power of money and gets whatever she desires without accounting for anything to anybody. Not only we encounter with her weakness in her dialogue with the shop man but also in her being jealous of Miss Smith when he utters lovely words for this girl and behaves as it is predicted by Philip who knows directing her and makes her behave as he desires taking advantage of her faulty character successfully.

In that sense Philip is an intelligent man and effective on Rosemary who is also obviously the symbol of possessive female by being jealous of the girl she has met in the street; so she has no self-confidence, she is a little bit credulous. She asks directly-having no hidden meaning in her words- ' Am I

PRETTY? ', which ironically reveals her ex-behaviors to Philip even she supposes that Philip is not aware of the truth.

* The title is symbolic and metaphorical. It is in strong position. (A cup of tea – a price of cup of tea = a price of family happiness for Rosemary).

* The theme – The relationship between people.

* The message – Sometimes we do plausible actions just to please our own vanity.

* The exposition – When we come across with a rich couple Rosemary and Philip Fell.

* The knitting – Rosemary meets a poor girl in the street and drives her to the house.

* The climax – Philip comes home and tells Rosemary that their guest is too pretty to keep her at home

* Dénouement – Girl's leaving from their house.

* The story is presented in third person narrative which allows the readers to experience the story through the eyes of Rosemary Fell. This works towards the reader's understanding of the text through the emotion and psychology of the character. The narrative's function is to unveil the closed details.

* The plot is focused on 3 characters.

In many ways she is presented as very active." She was young, brilliant, extremely modern, exquisitely well dressed, amazingly well read in the

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newest of the new books ...” The writer of the text here uses metaphorical phrases while describing Rosemary’s hat “ Her hat, really no bigger than a geranium petal, hung from a branch...” Infact it is to reflect the prominence that is given for her. She is mostly ‘ the actor’ where the girl is the goal or sometimes the beneficiary recipient: “ I want you to. To please me.” – We may infer that Rosemary is dominant and makes others do whatever she wants to.

“ I only want to make you warm...” – This time what she desires Is to be made by her is something good as a concept; but even it is good for Miss Smith, it is directed by Rosemary and shows her power on her by regarding Miss Smith as a helpless creature which is to be pitied and looked after. “ Come and sit down,” she cried, dragging her big chair up to the fire, « in this comfy chair.” – And the circumstantial feature where the actor is Rosemary gives clues for her rich, comfortable life style. “ And ‘ there!’ cried Rosemary again , as they reached her beatiful big bedroom with the curtains drawn, the fire leaping on her wonderful lacquer furniture, her gold cushions and the primrose and blue rugs.”

“ She turned impulsively.’ (She is accustomed to spiking freely in a society thanks to the power of the money .) Looking at how she sees the world around her, we realize that she can mention about what she likes or dislikes and reveals her ideas directly and freely; we have lots of verbs telling us about her cognition and affection: “ Yes, she liked it very much, she loved it.”