

Sive is referred



Throughout the play Sieve is referred to as an 'illegitimate child' Without a brown penny to her name". When Mean learns of Sean D's wish to marry Sieve knowing of her illegitimacy Mean is shocked yet relived. It is likely for a girl like Sieve to grow as 'an old maid'. It was unknown for illegitimate children to marry in those days. Sieve's mother is rarely commented on throughout the play by any of the characters and when she is it is only for a brief moment. Any comment made by Mean is a cruel one you'll come to no good either, like the one that went before you".

Sieve's mother is an embarrassment to the family life system opened the fate for Sieve's normalization. She is a second class citizen who is denied respectability in that world. The Catholic Church had a powerful strong hold on rural communities in the sass's; Kane conveys these through religious references such as Men's quote 'Saints preserve us'. Old and valued traditions in the play are easily identified within the characters actions, motives and quotes. A good example of this is Nana living with her son and his wife. She is looked after by the family as it is a strong tradition that she stays here till her dying day.

Another example would be the matchmaking and arranged marriages within the community. However Sieve and Lima reflect the New Ireland and the hope for a better future. For the young couple, love and personal happiness is more important than financial security. 'Imagine marrying someone you've never met before!' this thought appall them both where as it was accepted and acknowledged as the norm during Nana's and Men's time. However Sieve looked upon matchmaking, there was a tendency for society to remain conservative and unwilling to accept new ways of thinking.

The division between modern values and the traditional customs of a dying past is at the heart of this tragic play. Another challenge to the accepted norms of the times came through Sive's perspective on education.

Educations in the play Sive is only seen with the character Sive herself. Education for girls is still not fully accepted as the norm during the sass's. Mean is totally against Sive having any type of Education, She would rather Sive be Working her living on a farm'. Mean sees Sive's education as a complete waste f energy and time for herself and Sive.

She wouldn't have let Sive have any education if it weren't that it was Sive's mothers dying wish. It is clear that no other character in the play was given the chance or option to be educated; it was the norm and tradition to begin work as soon as possible and to be married when the opportunity arose. However Sive has a different plan and works hard at school hoping to one day fulfill her own dreams and not the dreams of her Aunt Mean. Finally the lifestyle in which people lived in Ireland during the sass's is a simple rural fife, devoted to subsistence.

The food which they eat is simple bread, potatoes, milk. The house in which they live is small simple and rural. Mean and Mike engage in a self sufficient lifestyle, working hard every day to earn their living. They keep animals such as cows and chickens. The kitchens layout is simple and sufficient. It is a hard lifestyle. The hardship is shown through the bitterness and gloomy atmosphere in which all the characters relate to one another. In brief, my investigations have led me to this conclusion; 1).

Poverty was a massive issue during the sass's classifying the respected rich from the penniless poor. 2). The Catholic Church had a stronghold upon rural communities Judging right from wrong under the catholic values. 3).

Tradition is still going strong from years ago and still holds its place in the sass's, however Sieve and Lima begin to reflect the new Ireland and hope for a better future. 4). Education is beginning to become more popular but sass's was kept simple, rural and devoted to working hard to earn your living. 6th year - 1, 134 words.