

Domestic violence- literary analysis of a rose for emily

Literature



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Domestic Violence: Literary Analysis of A Rose for Emily The short story written by Faulkner manifests aspects of domestic violence in terms of the behavior exhibited by the main character, Emily, towards her potential partner, Homer Barron. The intricate issue of domestic violence is exhibited when one person in a relationship behaves in a way that exhibits a form of control towards the other person. Emily is guilty of manifesting behavior that led to her criminal action of killing Homer Barron, to prevent him from leaving her. Barron was found dead with his skeletal remains on the bed of a locked room in Emily's house, hidden from everyone else, and kept to her until the day she died. The events that led to Emily's criminal behavior would be proffered to closely examine characterization, symbolism and incidents that led to this domestic violence. Emily Grierson, is the main character in Faulkner's short story and was depicted as a round character, whose traits were developed and expounded through the story. As the lead character, Emily is the protagonist, while the rest of the characters in the story are basically flat characters whose personalities were merely outlines or simple descriptions needed to build the main character. These supporting characters are Tobe, Emily's servant; Emily's father; Homer Barron, the person Emily loved; and the townspeople. It could be deduced that Homer Barron, an antagonist, who was supposed to have initially left her, was eventually controlled by Emily and prevented to leave the house through drastic means. The significant symbols that support indications of domestic violence were the lime and arsenic, which are considered symbols for covering foul smell and even supposedly used by Emily to prevent Homer from leaving her by poisoning him so he could be with her until death do

they part. The lime was needed to cover up the bad smell of the decaying body of Homer, intended to keep Emily's violent and criminal behavior from the prying eyes of the townspeople. Emily's house is also a symbol in the story, analogous to her, as it was initially pictured to be grand, magnificent and beautiful; but the test of time caused deterioration, wear and tear, and a setting for a horrible secret hidden from others. Just like Emily, whose true nature was not revealed until the end of the story, the secret was keenly hidden with the strategic symbolism of the house. The setting for Faulkner's story was in the county seat of Yoknapatawpha, Jefferson, initially depicted at the funeral of Emily. The outcome of the domestic violence from the hands of Emily was ultimately revealed at the end of the story in the house protected by Emily from the view of the people. The story exhibited a general setting where events, especially the outcome of the domestic violence, unfolded through time. The character of Emily who started as a known personality in town from her youth to the time she died was mysterious just like the house where she lived for so many years. The events that led to Emily's criminal behavior were proffered through closely examining her character, symbolism and incidents that led to this domestic violence. In the end, despite the heinous crime that Emily undertook to keep the person she loved within her control and confines, she appeared triumphant as her uncanny behavior was kept hidden from others for a long time. Work Cited Faulkner, William. "A Rose for Emily." Sourced from Gwynn, R. S. *Literature: A Pocket Anthology*. Longman. Pp. 139 - 148. 2008. Print.