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ENGL 333

23 September 2018

Structuralism Sandbox Essay

The narrative represents change amongst the entire society, and how it is a necessary factor of life. Death is symbolic of change, and both are an absolute certainty. Her father dying signifies the end of her youth: a forceful change. She is forced into the world through the loss of her father, removing her from her comfort and removing her innocence. Change rears its head again through her “lover” or husband abandoning her. Emily changed her entire area by choosing to have someone perceived to be of a lower class, as her lover. Again, signifying change through the structure of classification in the world. His social status could potentially foreshadow the death that awaited both characters toward the end of the story. ‘We’ could potentially represent the collective consciousness and our ability to use cognitive dissonance in we behaves in a manner that we are ashamed of. The house is the dead body and the dead body is also the house. Empty houses that are haunted by unresolved conflict

Contractual structures are very present in this piece like marriage. Now that Emily is married that are different agreements that led to most of the conflict inside the story. She has to pay taxes. ‘A Rose For Emily’ represents man trying to control fate. This could convey ‘man v. time’ by Emily poisoning Homer for his indiscretions. Also, Emily preserved his body past the point of spoiling. She was clinging to the idea of what they

“could have been”. Homer is change because of his social status. The town’s people based everything off what they see. Like structuralism itself, it is the majority’s opinion that leads to the collective conclusion. It goes back to the basic principle: a first impression is everything. Death is a repeated troupe in literature showcasing that transformation or change is a finite aspect of the human experience. Change is inevitable.

In the Oval Portrait, the narrative represents the quest of human perfectibility. As humans, we get so fixated on creating our version of perfection in our reality that we overlook the beauty of imperfection in the nature world. We censor our humanity in order to try to achieve actualization. The woman in the portrait is frozen in time. She is a budding youth, stuck in her reality, and trapped in her own beauty. The woman is the story becomes tied to the idea of her purity. She is not allowed to evolve in order to keep her perfectibility. Contractual structures in this piece include having the contract to sit and wait for the man to finish taking her portrait. The commitment gives way to the entire story. It is the tool being used. Evolution is forward movement. So stagnation by trying to stay in a certain position actually does the opposite of what the painter wanted; and thereby, it leads again to death.