The Ideological Structure in “The Rocking-Horse Winner”: Evils of Modernism and Consumerism

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Abstract

Short stories of D. H. Lawrence stay in the background in spite of the fact that he is hailed as one of the most accomplished short story writers in English literature. For that reason, it is not possible to come across with many studies dealing with his short stories. By taking this into consideration, this article will analyze Lawrence’s ‘The Rocking-Horse Winner’ by focusing on its multilayered ideological structure in which the representatives of a large section of bourgeois society are in essence criticized through its distorted and self-disruptive values. Some issues and concepts like the disintegration of the family, the debunking of motherhood myth, evils of consumerism, bourgeois morality, commodity fetishism, and alienation will also be used in order to unearth Lawrence’s stance in the story. In this context, the Marxist literary theory will be employed.

Keywords: D. H. Lawrence, ‘The Rocking-Horse Winner’, Alienation, Bourgeois Morality, Disintegration.

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“The Rocking-Horse Winner” is a story about a young boy who is desperately searching for luck and money in order to please his unhappy mother. This knowledge allows Paul to gamble on horse races. Readers realize that Paul rides a rocking-horse, until something somehow tells him the winner of a horse race. ... He may have found the winner of the races but the wisdom that he gains through his wooden rocking horse resides in the sobering morale of the story. In the Rocking Horse Winner’ and I Want To Know Why’, both children had a strong bond with a horse or horses. Throughout the Rocking Horse Winner’ Paul c Word Count: 2806. Need help with The Rocking-Horse Winner in D. H. Lawrence's The Rocking-Horse Winner? Check out our revolutionary side-by-side summary and analysis. LitCharts assigns a color and icon to each theme in The Rocking-Horse Winner, which you can use to track the themes throughout the work. Greed and Materialism. Luck and Hard Work.