

QUEST FOR IDENTITY AND THE INFLUENCES OF THE COMMUNITY IN "THE BLUEST EYE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this abstract is to examine Pecola and her parents' search for identity and how social forces and cultural expectations shape it. Quest for identity, as well as the influences of community is the major theme of the play. Morrison clearly shows how social identities are generated and replicated in personal life. This concept is pervasive throughout the novel and is reflected in many of the characters. Pecola, Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove represent this search for identification and serve as emblems for the aspirations of numerous Black immigrants from the north at that time.

Key words: abandoned, cruelest, humanity, isolated, racial, subjugation,

1. INTRODUCTION

Search for identity in The Bluest Eye:

The low-self-esteem small black girl named Pecola is taught that she is unattractive and that others will only love and accept her if she has blue eyes. After being raped, Pecola gets insane since her father physically abuses her and her mother doesn't show her any affection at home. There was constantly terrible fighting between Pecola's mother and father. Samy either left home or cursed in response to their altercation. Even at the tender age of fourteen, he has already fled home twenty-seven times. Pecola wants to escape, but her appearance prevents her from doing so.

Due to the imposition of the white community, the characters from the black community recognise themselves as the others. And Pecola Breedlove is experiencing the same thing, as she has been classified as other by the black people who are a part of the black community. Shubhanku khochar says: "The Bluest Eye truthfully examines the entire process of subjugation and suppression of black at the hands of the white. And the novel sets out to explore the way in which some Afro-Americans exploited the members of their own race under the impact of racial" hegemony."4

Pecola faced hardships from the day of her birth. She had traumatic events beyond her expected experiences at a young age, including being sexually assaulted and impregnated by her own father. The eleven-year-old Black girl who is the novel's protagonist feels that she is ugly and that having blue eyes will make her appear more attractive. Her classmates, parents, and mother all mistreat her as she quietly takes it. She is sensitive and gentle. She is alone and inventive.

Claudia tells how someone looked after her when she was unwell. She says "I think of somebody with hands who does not want me to die" (autumn, Chapter 1). Despite being strict, Claudia's mother really cares about her children. It's uncertain whether Mrs. Breedlove or Cholly genuinely care about Pecola.

Pecola believes that her appearance would change if her eyes were blue. She waits hopeful for a miracle, knowing that it will take time, and prays for blue eyes every night. She is isolated at school due of her unattractive appearance, and her teachers as well as fellow students dislike her. The students who wish to upset each other used to suggest the other resembled Pecola. Certain pupils at school tease Pecola by referring to her as "black." This shows How young children have already absorbed the societal message that dark complexion is undesirable. The cruelest thing these children can think of is to label someone "black." Pecola's quest for identity is characterized by her need for love. She wants to be attractive so that people will love her. So she wishes to have a white girl's blue eyes.

Pecola's mother, Pauline Breedlove, works as a servant in a white home and finds true happiness. Her search for her identity and happiness leads her to realize that happiness requires sacrifice. The movie theatre reveals the distinction between her and the other women. When she is among her white relatives, she feels as if she possesses their positive traits, such as happiness and social respect. But every time she is with her own family, she recognizes how ugly, destitute and unworthy they are. She chooses to give up her own family and focus all of her time, love, and energy on the White family after coming to this realization. So she quickly makes the decision to abandon her family in order to pursue her ideal life, not realizing that by deciding to live a life of service, she will always be a black servant in a world of white people.

Unwed mother gives birth to Cholly. The father had fled before he was born, and his mother abandoned him three days later. So is raised by Jimmy, his aunt. He resolves to go on an inner quest to discover his father in order to find him after his aunt passes away. After much searching, he eventually locates his father, but he is anxious to tell him

who he is. His only perception of a father figure is one of suffering because of the humiliating meeting with his father, which left him permanently scarred. Cholly's sexual history begins with an unpleasant event as well. His first sexual encounter is compelled, mocked, and witnessed by two white guys. His community and family shaped his character. He receives rude treatment from the neighborhood and is referred to as a scoundrel after setting fire to his own home. His search for himself comes to an end when he rapes his own daughter; this is the turning point in his life. He loses all humanity.

Pecola's father sexually assaults her. Due to her inexperience and the abuse she endured throughout her pregnancy, she gives birth to a stillborn child. All those who come into her way are a constant source of distress for her. She is misled into believing that God has miraculously granted her the blue eyes for which she longed. She has lost her baby and her mental health. Mrs. Breedlove experiences greater humiliation than Cholly. Cholly becomes estranged from the community. Upon realizing his transformation into a monster, he vanishes from existence.

2. REFERENCES

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