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What is the main theme of the play trifles

The Document has moved here Watch out! This text is available online and is used for guidance and inspiration A play can be analyzed in a variety of ways. One of these ways is through the plays theme. The theme more often than not can be developed through the stories plot. According to Literature: A Portable Anthology, the words plot, character, and theme mean the same thing in drama as they do in fiction, though there is a difference in how they are presented. A story tells you about a series of events, whereas a play shows you these events happening in real time. The information that might be conveyed in descriptive passages in prose fiction must be conveyed in a play through dialogue. In the play Trifles, by Susan Glaspell represents a society filled with strict gender roles, which the men have control over the household whereas the women exist only in the home. Trifles depicts a world controlled by men which social expectations and restrictions have confined women to the home and limit them to only do what their husbands command, with little control or identity of their own. The play begins on the scene of an abandoned farmhouse. The house is in disarray, with dishes left out and unwashed as well as bread prepared but not yet baked. Five people enter the house to investigate the murder of Mr. Wright. The first person is the county attorney, George Henderson who is a young man that speaks in a professional manner, but he oftentimes rejects the opinion of female interest and criticizes Mrs. Wright for what he believes to be her lack of homemaking abilities to keep the house in order. The second character is Henry Peters, he is the local sheriff and husband of Mrs. Peters. He is at the farmhouse to investigate the scene of the crime. Like George, the sheriff also mocks the women about their interest in Mrs. Wright's quilting. The third character is Lewis Hale who is the neighbor, he was the one who found John Wright's body strangled with a rope in his bed. The men are followed by their wives, Mrs. Peters and Mrs. Hale who explains to the county attorney the experience of finding John Wright's dead body the previous day. He explained that he stopped by his neighbor's house Mr. Wright to ask if they wanted to install a party line telephone. His wife, Minnie Wright, was arrested for the murder, and the two men have come to gather evidence against her. In chapter six of Beyond Feelings: A Guide to Critical Thinking, the chapter titled "What is Evidence" the author states, "More often than most of us would care to admit, when called on to support our opinions, we manage to produce only the flimsiest of evidence. We may soothe ourselves with the notion that a thick folder of evidence lies misfiled in our minds, but the very real possibility remains that flimsy evidence was all we ever had"(Ruggiero 73). Showing that the men of the play are drawing their own conclusions by placing Mrs. Wright in jail for the murder of her husband without sufficient evidence to link her to the murder. We will write a unique paper on this topic for you! Place Order *No hidden charges Throughout the play all the characters, including the women are making an effort to figure out the plot behind why Mrs. Wright killed her husband and how she did it. The overall investigation is an attempt to unfold the plot of his death. When the play opens up, all the characters enter the farmhouse together but not as equals. Towards the end of the first stage the men have taken the lead, exhibiting their superiority. They all enter the empty farmhouse confidently while the women are anxious in the back as if they need permission by the men to continue. This hierarchy plays out in how the characters position themselves in the kitchen, the men approach the stove immediately, while the women linger in the back. Showing the idea that men and women played very different roles in society. Instead of focusing on the men and their search to solve the murder of Mr. Wright, Susan Glaspell focuses on the women in the kitchen after the men have left the room. At this point in the play the men go upstairs and this is when the women begin to find out for themselves who killed Mr. Wright. The rising action of the play begins when the men leave the women alone in the kitchen and without being aware of it the women are using the same tactics that the men would use, asking a variety of questions. They begin to communicate in small talk and comment on how the kitchen was left after the murder. For example, when Mrs. Peter noticed that Mrs. Wright had begun "piecing a quilt"(Glaspell 985). The two women are wondering if she was going to quilt it or knot it, as this happens the men come downstairs and over hear the women talking. The sheriff repeats out loud what he heard the women say and the men all begin to laugh, making fun of the women. The gender roles of the play are exhibited in this moment because the men believe that women are not worthy of making assumptions. The women also notice an empty bird cage with a broken door, thinking back if Mrs. Wright had a bird, they all do recall that she once had a beautiful singing voice. The play illustrates stereotypes through gender roles, which builds on the idea that women are lesser people than men, somewhat like a child and their actions in constant need of being controlled. The sheriff lives up to his role as he leads the investigation to solve the Wright murder. He does this with the county attorney Gerorge Henderson, and a nearby farmer by the name of Lewis Hale, who is the witness and first person to see Mr. Wrights dead body. The men exhibit their superiority towards the women when the sheriff talks to Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Peters about the cabin pattern. For example, "They wonder if she was going to quit it or just knot it!(the men laugh, the women look abashed.)" (Glaspell, 985) which means that the men made the women feel embarrassed about the situation. Something that most men not only in that time but often times now have to look down upon women and their choices. In an essay posted on The Journal of International Women's Studies, examines the prejudice of the role of women in the family and society, as well as how attitudes towards stereotypes are linked to gender roles holding a deeper message and how the relationship with her parents are influenced by unresolved issues connecting to the status of women. For example, "prejudices on the role of women in the society and in family life are touched upon with a specific vehemence and bitterness, as she had to confront" (Munca). Although women's status has improved significantly since the nineteenth century in many societies, women continue to lack access to power and leadership compared to their male counterparts. For example, Mr. Hale states, "Well, women are used to worrying over trifles"(Glaspell, 982). Mr. Hale carelessly makes this statement to show that women show value to things of little importance. When Mrs. Peters acknowledges the attention to what she regards as the significance of the exploded jars of fruit preserves left aside. In chapter ten of Beyond Feelings: A Guide to Critical Thinking, the chapter titled "Errors of Procedure", the author states, "One form of this error is seeking only evidence that confirms your bias. Another form occurs when evidence is presented to you that challenges your bias and you choose an interpretation that favors your bias, even when other interpretations are more reasonable"(Ruggiero 115). The men of the play not only draw their own conclusions on who they believe killed Mr. Wright, but they also mock the women for taking into account all of the little details that leads up to the murder. It seems that as soon as the men entered the farmhouse gathering as little evidence as they could to made their decision as far as person of interest in the murder of Mr. Wright because of how Mrs. Wright was acting on the rocking chair when asked where her husband was. The men judge the women for lacking common sense and the mental focus to pay attention to the important things, but the men exhibit the same characteristics by only focusing on substantial evidence and not completely being understanding of what the women know about other women in their society. In the early 1900's women had different roles in society and were treated differently compared to women in today's society. Although gender roles are exhibited less in today's society, men still expect women to fulfill the duties of a homemaker, which consisted of cleaning and cooking rather than having their own opinions. Men do not allow women to carry out a job outside of the stereotypical realm of being a housewife. Susan Glaspell's play focuses on the themes of social boundaries, emotional isolation, dependency, but mainly gender-based differences and the lack of respect men have towards women. Showing an obvious representation of women's place in society while solving the murder of John Wright, these gender roles are common and key to solving the murder of Mr. Wright. The women in the play take actions to show they are more than or equally as competent as the men are in several areas of the play portraying a sense of feminism throughout the story. As Susan Glaspell' play, "Trifles", centers around the murder Mr. Wright, Mrs. Wright as the primary suspect, meaningless objects such as a bird cage, a bird, rope, and apron uncover the reason behind the crime to the women, who are in the kitchen, while the men scavenger around investigating elsewhere in the home. This unveils the men's belief in the early 1900's of a woman's ability and purpose in a domestic setting at home and the oppression that might be felt, but not spoken about the women, who suss the corruption of innocence in the marriage of Mrs. Wright by Mr. Wright that is also prevalent in other marriages. In the case of Mrs. Wright, as well as others around the world, marriage takes away pieces from women like missing pieces to...show more content...So like missing pieces from a puzzle, the men couldn't understand the whole picture of why a woman could commit such a crime against her husband. The way someone presents him or herself by the way they dress or speak is a mirror of the way they live their lives at home. So this makes me question how the relationship of Mr. and Mrs. Wright functioned. Someone with such a personality wouldn't leave their home to look a mess unless there were other reasons. Mrs. Wright lost a child-like characteristic and became a secluded and disheveled wife. My diction referring to Mrs. Wright as a "disheveled wife" instead of "woman and wife" was to purposely direct the attention to the fact that she is no longer looked at as anyone other than a wife. Her former self, Minnie Foster, is long gone from the person she is portrayed as at the present moment. Glaspell writes "Mrs. Hale: she used to sing real pretty herself. Mrs. Peters: Seems funny to think of a bird here... why would she have a cage?" The birdcage reveals how Mrs. Wright felt trapped and was unable to escape her marriage until John broke the birdcage door thus allowing her to escape her broken marriage. A bird displays a beautiful array of colored...show more content...Taking into account the character of Lucy and comparing her with Mrs. Wright, we get a similar scenario. Lucy is described as a vibrant beautiful woman (lively and chatty like a little girl as well), married to Arthur, until Dracula transformed her. After she changed into her vampire state, there were notable differences in the way she interacted with other people (likewise with Mrs. Wright). Some examples of this change is when she began to sleep walk and asked Arthur for a passionate kiss. I believe that a recurring type of innocence that is lost is child-like. As Van Helsing described, Dracula reminded him of a child. Although we know he was no more than a monster. What can be inferred is that Dracula lost his innocence after he himself was transformed. Like marriage, his transformations into a vampire was a lifelong bond until his death. For Mrs. Wright I believed that she gained back some of the old part of herself once she killed her husband. Killing him with a rope symbolizes not only the death of John and the destruction it left as a result of the marriage, but the new life that she began afterwards. Mrs. Wright strangled him to death, the same way he killed her bird. Even though some people might ask why she resolved to killing her husband, instead of divorcing him, it's because back in the early 1900's divorce was frowned upon and almost From Marriage to Murder Susan Glaspell's "Trifles" is the perfect example of what happens to a person when they are driven to the edge of their sanity. Just how much can one person take before they snap? In this short but intense play-turned-story, we read about an unhappy marriage, murder and the possible motive behind it. The play has five different main characters who are standing in the now abandoned Wrights farmhouse. George Henderson, the county attorney, Henry Peters, the sheriff, his wife Mrs. Peters, and a neighboring farmer Lewis Hale and his wife Mrs. Hale. They are discussing and attempting to figure out just what happened in the house. Mr. John Wright is dead and his wife, Mrs. Wright, is currently behind bars for his murder...show more content... Wright was known to everyone as Minnie Foster. A happy woman who used to dress up in nice looking dresses and who loved to sing in the choir. Mrs. Hale, a neighbor of the Wright's said "I heard she used to wear pretty clothes and be lively, when she was Minnie Foster, one of the town girls singing in the choir. But that—oh, that was thirty years ago" (Meyer 1390). After marriage she was a quiet woman who didn't have any close friends and never had any children. Her kitchen was described as being untidy and gloomy. The men often make insulting comments about her lack of housekeeping skills. Hale, who had come to talk to John, and was the one who found his lifeless body upstairs said when he arrived at the house Mrs. Wright was just sitting in her rocking chair rocking and pleading her apron. When he asked to see John she laughed. When Mr. Hale asked why he couldn't see John Mrs. Wright replied "Cause he's dead" (Meyer 1387) and when he asked what he died of she replied "He died of a rope around his neck" (Meyer 1388). At this point she knows that her husband is upstairs in their bed dead but continues to sit rocking in her chair for who knows how long. Her laughing when asked where John was seemed to indicate a certain level of psychosis, in my opinion. Usually when someone loses someone close to them, or someone they love, they are hysterical and usually inconsolable. Mrs. Wright just sat in her chair like nothing was out of the ...show more content... Back in older times it was the man's job to work and bring home the money and it was the woman's job to maintain the housework, such as cooking and cleaning. The men are insulting Mrs. Wrights lack of skill while the women are trying to sympathize with her. She was described as a fluttery person before marriage and it seems marriage eventually pulled her down into a sad lonely depressive state, making her absolutely miserable. She used to enjoy to sing and dance and was now married to a strict man who seemed to hate noise of any kind. Mrs. Hale shed some light on the type of person John Wright was with comments such as "Not having children makes less work - but it makes a quiet house, and Wright out to work all day, and no company when he did come in." and "he didn't drink, and kept his word as well as most, I guess, and paid his debts. But he was a hard man, Mrs. Peters. Just to pass the time of day with him - (shivers) Like a raw wind that gets to the bone." Mr. Hale also described John as an antisocial man when recalling a conversation that he had with him. Hale had inquired that John should go in with him on a party telephone. He stated "I spoke to Wright about it once before and he put me off, saying folks talked too much anyway, and all he asked was peace and quiet - I guess you know how much he talked himself, but I thought maybe if I went to the house and talked about it before

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