

According to many critics, it is an autobiographical novel (as A portrait Of The Artist as a Young Man). Lawrence was also a son of a miner but his mother and father did not belong to the upper-middle class. His mother was a teacher but belonged to the low class. His father Arthur was a miner. They lived in Eastwood which in the novel becomes Westwood- mining area, builds settlement for well to do people and for poor people at the bottoms. (hell row- they live in a row of houses. The Morels have the last house in the row plus an additional yard. Gertrud Morel somehow feels that she is better than the other wives of the mines and looks down on the neighborhood and mingles with the priest)

The implications of industrialization permeate the novel: factory, sounds of train, The time is not like in the Victorian era, here we have highly developed industrialized society. The mining area in Nottingham Shire is represented through the novel. The aim is to emphasize the contrast between the industrial area and nature which is described as the Garden of Eden. Nature and flowers are very important in the novel because we get to know about the characters through their communication with nature.

Intertextual references

Miriam was based on a girl called Jessie who was girlfriend to Lawrence for a long time. She was an intellectual and he shared with her all his opinion and even his draft of the novels. They broke up when she read the novel ☹.

Clara is based on _____ similar to Clara. The difference is that he marries this girl. His relationship with his mother is similar to that described in the novel but she did not come from the upper classes.

Theme of classes

Social concerns connected with the industrialized society. There were great economic classes and great social upheavals thus blurring of classes. The upheavals appeared as a result of the emergence of the proletarian class as Walter Morel- worked in mines since 10 years. The working class had to fight the bosses from the companies. The workers were fighting for better wages and conditions. Economic and social conditions are important for the theme of the novel.

Walter Morel represent the working class, Gertrud Morel belongs to the upper-middle class. There was a class difference between them- they were not competing one for another.

William, Paul and Arthur are examples of social mobility-climbing up in the social level.

1st William works in London as a school teacher- part of the industrialized society

2nd Paul works at the bank- part of the industrialized society

3rd Arthur works at a company connected with the railway- part of the industrialized society.

Their mother wanted their sons to be well established in the society, not as their father was.

The social movement is also presented by the moving of the house to the hill- they secured better positions in the society.

Hell row- the dwelling places were constructed for the poor folks.

Miriam is a swine girl but wants to learn and becomes a teacher.

Eternal struggle for sexual power

We can see this struggle in the relationship between Walter and Gertrud Morel. Both want to be dominant and assert their superiority. Walter ends up being defeated. Why? His sons hate him, even Paul prays his father to die.

Walter is close to his younger son- Arthur.

Gertrud wins in the struggle because she is the head of the family and because Walter is afraid of her.

Result of the dominant figure of Gertrud is that Walter ends up being alcoholic. Walter is intellectually inferior and the only way out from the position is to drink.