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The Role of Relationship Sons and Lovers

Sons and Lovers, written by D.H. Lawrence in 1913, is an autobiographical novel that depicts the Morels' discordant family situation. Many critics have pointed to Mr. Morel and his behaviour as an explanation for the discord. However, by applying a historical, socioeconomic, gender, and psychoanalytic lens to an examination of Mrs. Morel, this analysis will focus on her numerous actions and behaviour in an attempt to provide another explanation for the narrative's disharmony. The analysis will primarily concentrate on her relationship with her sons, particularly Paul (Brunzell).

When analyzing this novel, and particularly the relationship between Mrs. Morel and her son Paul, we will divide the structure into two sections. Before moving on to Paul, a discussion of Mrs. Morel's behaviour and actions will be required. When analyzing Paul and the repercussions of his mother's behaviour, there must be a focus on change over time, with analysis of various stages in Paul's life carried out. Mrs. Morel demonstrates several times throughout the novel that she is an overbearing mother who initiates an unnatural relationship with Paul. One might wonder why this relationship between mother and son exists (Brunzell 12). Mrs. Morel was devastated when William died of an illness in front of her, and she went mute like a ghost (Lawrence 2019, p. 151–152). Paul was the one who helped her mother deal with her grief when William died. Paul was constructed similarly to his mother and was very aware of her emotions. As previously said, all of the children despised their father,