



THE PECULIARITIES OF REVEALING THE IMAGE OF THE TEACHER IN THE WORKS OF AMERICAN AND BRITISH LITERATURE IN XX CENTURY

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Abstract

The portrayal of teachers in American and British literature in the 20th century was influenced by various cultural, social, and historical factors. In general, American literature tended to present teachers as heroic figures who were committed to improving the lives of their students, while British literature often portrayed teachers as transformative individuals who are able to make a profound impact on his students' lives. This article contributes to the world literature to depict the characteristics of teacher's image in American and British literature by discussing the features of heroes of three classic novels.

Keywords: portrayal of teachers, mentor, compassionate figure, transformative, profound impact, memorable character, triumphs of the students

Introduction

The characterization of teachers in American and British literature is often complex and multifaceted, reflecting the various attitudes and perceptions that exist towards teachers in both cultures. Some works depict teachers as inspirational figures who have the ability to shape young minds and make a positive impact on their students' lives. Other works, however, portray teachers as flawed individuals who struggle with personal problems and often fail to live up to their students' expectations. [1, 4]

One common portrayal of teachers in American literature is that of the "inspiring mentor." This type of teacher is often depicted as a wise and compassionate figure who is dedicated to helping their students grow and develop. Examples of this type of teacher can be found in works such as "Dead Poets Society" by N.H. Kleinbaum, "Freedom Writers Diary" by Erin Gruwell and "To Sir, With Love" by E.R. Braithwaite. These teachers often go above and beyond their job requirements to make a difference in their students' lives, and their impact on their students can be profound and long-lasting.





A beloved classic about an inspiring teacher

"Dead Poets Society" is a novel by N.H. Kleinbaum, published in 1989. The novel is based on the screenplay of the 1989 film of the same name, directed by Peter Weir and starring Robin Williams. The story is set in the Welton Academy, an all-boys preparatory school in Vermont, USA, and follows the story of English teacher John Keating, who inspires his students to think for themselves and challenge the strict rules and traditions of the school. Keating encourages his students to seize the day and live their lives to the fullest, leading them to form a secret club called the Dead Poets Society, where they read and discuss poetry outside of the classroom. [8,1]

The novel explores themes such as individualism, conformity, the power of poetry, and the importance of seizing the day and living life to the fullest. The story is told from the perspective of one of Keating's students, Todd Anderson, who initially struggles to find his voice but is ultimately inspired by Keating's teachings to pursue his passions and stand up for what he believes in. It has become a beloved classic and has been adapted into a successful stage play. The novel and the film have been praised for their inspiring message and memorable characters, and have left a lasting impact on audiences around the world.

A mentor in engaging students to learn the power of writing

"The Freedom Writers Diary" is a non-fiction book by Erin Gruwell based on the experiences of Gruwell and her students in Room 203 at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California. Gruwell became a teacher at Wilson High in 1994, and was assigned to teach a group of at-risk students. Many of her students came from low-income families and had experienced poverty, violence, and gang activity. She wanted to engage her students and help them see the world beyond their immediate surroundings, so she introduced them to the power of writing. Gruwell encouraged her students to keep writing journals, where they could express their thoughts and feelings freely. She also introduced them to literature and history that they could relate to, such as "The Diary of Anne Frank" and the Civil Rights movement. Gruwell's students began to write about their own experiences, and through this process, they discovered the power of their own voices. [5,1]

"The Freedom Writers Diary" is a collection of the personal journals and essays written by Gruwell's students over the course of four years. The book documents the struggles and triumphs of the students as they confront issues such as racism, gang violence, and poverty, and learn to find hope and inspiration through their writing. The book has been widely praised for its powerful message of hope and its inspiring portrayal of the transformative power of education. It has been adapted into a





successful film, "Freedom Writers", starring Hilary Swank as Erin Gruwell. The legacy of the Freedom Writers lives on through the Freedom Writers Foundation, which Gruwell founded to support educators and students around the world. [3,3]

A black teacher as a transformative figure

In "To Sir, With Love" by E.R. Braithwaite, the image of the teacher is portrayed as a transformative figure who has the ability to positively impact the lives of his students. The novel tells the story of Mark Thackeray, a black teacher from British Guiana who takes a job teaching a class of troubled, working-class students in London's East End. At first, Thackeray struggles to connect with his students, who are disrespectful and dismissive of him. However, he gradually wins their respect and admiration by treating them as individuals and challenging them to think critically about their lives and their futures. [7,1]

Thackeray's image as a teacher is one of a patient, compassionate, and wise mentor who is able to connect with his students despite their initial resistance. He is able to see beyond his students' rough exteriors to the potential within, and helps them to develop skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in their lives. He is also depicted as a teacher who is willing to challenge and confront his students when necessary, in order to help them grow and learn from their mistakes.

Overall, the image of the teacher in "To Sir, With Love" is one of a transformative figure who is able to make a profound impact on his students' lives. The novel emphasizes the importance of treating students with respect and compassion, and of recognizing their potential for growth and achievement. It also highlights the challenges that teachers face in trying to connect with students from different backgrounds and experiences, and the importance of perseverance and dedication in the face of these challenges.

Conclusion

Overall, the portrayal of teachers in American literature is complex and multifaceted, reflecting the various attitudes and perceptions that exist towards teachers in American culture. While some works depict teachers as inspirational figures who can make a positive impact on their students' lives, others portray them as flawed individuals who struggle with personal problems and often fail to live up to their students' expectations.



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