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Relationships in the Glass Menagerie

Introduction

The Glass Menagerie is a play used by Tennessee Williams to narrate and relate to his real-life story. The setting of the story is similar to his life, and he develops relationships between the characters of the play, which reflect the relationships he had with his family. Tennessee grew up in a family without a father, his mother was an authoritarian woman who wanted her children to live as she wished, and his sister was continuously ill. This paper will examine the influence that Tennessee's family had on the relationships he created in his play and the similarity between his family and the one he created in The Glass Menagerie.

Relationships

Tennessee Williams's play revolves around family relationships. The major relationships in the play are between mother and daughter, mother and son, and sister and brother. These relationships in the play were influenced by the life of Tennessee and his family relationships.

The relationship between Tom and Amanda is the relationship between son and mother. They have a dysfunctional relationship, which is a reflection of Williams' relationship with his mother. The two are in constant disagreements with Tom trying to get his mother not talk to him. Tom dislikes the fact that her mother is an authoritarian who always wants him to live by her

controls (Bryfonski, 127). The only connection between Amanda and Tom is Laura who always insists on them to be in peace and requesting with Tom to apologize to the mother. It is evident that the mother and son relationship in the play is generated from the relationship between Williams' and his mother. The mother always wants to control Tom and at some point refers to him as a drunkard, being restless and selfish which is similar to Williams' life.

Laura and Amanda in the play reflect the relationship between mother and daughter. Amanda dominates the relationship between these two most probably because she is the mother and Laura suffers from some illness. Their relationship is different from that one with Tom as Laura respects her mother, loves her and always wants to see her happy. On the other hand, Amanda leads and controls every aspect of Laura's life, and she makes decisions for her daughter (Bryfonski, 129). This relationship is built on the real relationship between Williams' mother and his sister. The life Williams' family was exposed to, led to the development of this relationship, which reflects the interactions between his sister and mother.

The third is the relationship between Tom and Laura, which is between sister and brother. These two had a positive relationship with each other. The play does not describe any instance of a disagreement between them, which is like the story of Williams and his sister. They were fond of each other, and they even found it difficult to live without each other. Tom felt that his sister was his responsibility and he felt guilty the moment he goes away and leaves her (Bloom, 30). This relationship in the play is similar to the real relationship Williams had with his sister.

The relationships in the play are a true reflection of Williams' family. The different relationships were brought up and developed with the aim of promoting better family relationships. The aim of using the relationships is to show the kind of negative interactions in his family and the possible

harm they can cause to the unity of a family (Bloom, 104). He also tries to encourage parents to give their children freedom and allow them to make independent decisions.

Similarity between Families

The family Williams creates in the play is similar to his family in different ways. His father left them without informing them, and they were left under their mothers care. The family he creates in the play is similar, as the man also leaves and leaves his family. In the two families, the members left behind do not know the father's whereabouts or the place he went.

The family set up is similar in the two families. In both, there is the mother son and daughter. The mother is authoritarian in both families, and she always seeks to control and lead the lives of her children (Gräfe, 10). The son is in constant disagreements with the mother, and they have a dysfunctional relationship. However, the mother and sister are on good terms, and they love each other even though her mother controls her. In both families, the daughter is ill, and it is the son's responsibility to take care of her though he abandons her and goes away.

Conclusion

The Glass Menagerie is a play that depicts Williams' family relationships by revolving around the issue. The author is influenced by his family to create different family relationships in the play. The major relationships are between a daughter and mother, brother and sister, and mother and son, which are relationships that reflect the way of life of Williams' family. The family in the play is similar to Williams' family in different aspects such as the members' traits and the family setting.

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