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# Theme of the Sons and Lovers by D.H Lawrence

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**Outline**

**Introduction:** The novel has the main characters being Paul Morel, Mrs. Morel, Walter Morel, William, Miriam, Clara, Annie Morel, and Arthur Morel. Mrs. Morel is Walter Morel's wife and is termed as the first protagonist in the novel Sons and Lovers. In the later chapters, Paul takes over as the second protagonist after his brother William passes away.

**Thesis statement**: Literature dwells more on Oedipus complex, bondage, class conflict, contradiction and oppositions, industrialism, mother-son relationship and religion as the major themes throughout the novel.

1. **Subtopic 1: Oedipus complex**

Topic sentence: Oedipus complex is a sexuality theory that originated from Greek and focused on the attraction of boys to their mothers. Girls' sexual attraction to their father is called Electra complex.

i. Supporting sentence: Paul's love for his mother is much in a way that borders romantic desires. We also find that Paul does not like his father and he admits that he hates him.

2. **Subtopic 2: Bondage**

Topic sentence: The novel Sons and lovers have every character detained by the other or the environment occupied by them. The bondage is both romantic and social-economic.

ii. Supporting sentence: Morel has no friends except the sons of her own. On the other hand, she does not go to work and depends on Walter, her husband, for all her needs.

3. **Subtopic 3: Contradictions and oppositions**

Topic sentence: The novel author shows how easily contradictions can rule nature regarding love and hate among individuals.

iii. Supporting sentence: Paul is indecisive between love and hate. He fails to know the love to accord his mother and all other women in his life.

4. **Subtopic 4: Mother-son relationship**

Topic sentence: Lawrence gives many instances of the mother and son relationship and how it can negatively impact them if not practiced correctly. Men should be controlled by performance and purpose as opposed to what we find in the novel.

iv. Supporting sentence: Mrs. Morel's love for her children is the only bright section of her life. She lived a frustrated life of controlling her sons. She does it the wrong way by despising the romantic love they have for the husband.

5. **Subtopic 5: Religion**

Topic sentence: Lawrence puts across the pretense that people bring along with religion. Religion has become an escape camp for people to lead their lives contrary to the teachings.

v. Supporting sentence: We find that Paul prays for his mother’s safety and asks the deity to hurt his father just because his mother has fed bad information into his life.

6. **Subtopic 6: Industrialism**

Topic sentence: Lawrence features the industrialism theme in his novel since it was the social-economic life of the families in the novel. The mining company set in the valleys shows industrialism.

vi. Supporting sentence: The economic setup of the community in the Sons and Lovers novel is centered on mining coal to sustain their daily needs and wants. The evidence in the novel shows that the family lived under the mining coal stipend provided by Walter.

7. **Subtopic 7: Class conflict**

Topic sentence: The class conflict is a theme well elucidated in the novel by D.H Lawrence. The novel shows the conflict between the ill-educated, unskilled and the ones having rigid morals.

**vii.** Supporting sentence: Walter morel is one of the people in the novel that represents the working category.

**Conclusion**

The sons and lovers novel has lessons to learn on bringing up children and forming a society that fits all the values needed to live in harmony. Lawrence articulates a family that has abandoned their father through the use of the Oedipus complex and sees the bad part of their father. Mind you; he is the breadwinner. The mother is overprotective to his sons and brings them up, telling them they should not be like their father, who drinks alcohol.

**Abstract**

The novel written by D.H Lawrence is a fiction story that capitalizes Oedipus complex in society. The ill problems that the Oedipus complex can cause to people are well elucidated in the novel. Lawrence shows the life and norms present in the twentieth century in line with the psychological relationship between men and women. The relationships per se in the novel shows how parents relate with their children, husband and members of the society in workplaces and neighborhood. The relationships have advantages and disadvantages if taken way far than expected. Religion is misused in the novel by Paul as he prays for his father to be hurt or rather die. Among other themes outlined in the novel are contradictions and oppositions, industrialism, bondage and class conflict. Sons and lovers novel can have many approaches to better the community's stance and living of all the people.

## Theme of the Sons and Lovers by D.H Lawrence

The novel has the main characters being Paul Morel, Mrs. Morel, Walter Morel, William, Miriam, Clara, Annie Morel, and Arthur Morel. Mrs. Morel is wife to Walter Morel and is termed as the first protagonist in the novel Sons and Lovers. In the later chapters, Paul takes over as the second protagonist after his brother William passes away. After Williams's death, his mother transfers the love she had for his firstborn to Paul. The novel shows how Mrs. Morels fails to love his husband and, in turn, gives the love and affection to her children. She also shows children that their father is not good enough for them. The sons are brought up by their mother, knowing that men are not good. All their life, they have experienced the love of their mother and the mistreatment of their dad. Upon growing up and having romantic relationships with their fiancées', they get problems since the only woman they know is their mother. The major themes of the novel are sons and Lovers by Lawrence elucidate the Oedipus complex, bondage, class conflict, contradiction and oppositions, industrialism, mother-son relationship, and religion.

### Oedipus Complex

Oedipus complex is a sexuality theory that originated from Greek and focused on the attraction of boys to their mothers. Girls' sexual attraction to their father is called Electra complex. The story originated from a play that has Oedipus's love for his mother. The character was prophesied not to like his father. He would also kill his father, marry the mother and even have a sexual affair with her. The novel's writer had those instincts from Sigmund Freud's most celebrated theory of sexuality (Ahmed, 2012). In the novel (Sons and lovers, we find that Mrs. Morel abandoning her husband to love the male children. Paul's love for his mother is much in a way that borders romantic desires. We also find that Paul does not like his father and he admits

that he hates him. The Oedipus complex displayed in the novel affects Paul even in his adulthood, where he loves women in his life equally.

He fails to have an emotional connection with his first love Miriam. The effects of Oedipus complex make him not manage to have a sexual affair with his girlfriend since femininity from his mother is all over him. Mrs. Morel shows the Oedipus complex more closely as she desires William and Paul nearly romantic. She prefers to stay close to her sons and projects dissatisfaction with her marriage and affair with Walter, her husband. She gets it from the son whenever she craves love, which is unacceptable because she is married.

Paul realizes that their mother is not for any good when she falls ill and the beauty fades away. We find that Paul overdoses on his mother to die and admits to the oedipal fate. He does not kill his father since the problem was with the mother, who tried to bring them apart and showing them that masculinity is evil. Mrs. Morel wanted to be pleased by her sons and let them understand and treat other women in the same way. She demonized marriage and respect for their father in their family (Ahmed, 2012). The novel's content is good evidence for Oedipus's complex theme.

**Bondage**

The novel Sons and lovers have every character detained by the other or the environment occupied by them. The bondage is both romantic and social-economic. Mrs. Morel has no friends except the sons of her own. On the other hand, she does not go to work and depends on Walter, her husband, for all her needs. In simple terms, she is a housewife. Before the death of William, Mrs. Morel depended on him for the upkeep and support of the family. The mother kept the sons in social, economic bondage.

Mrs. Morel showed them that they could only get true love and care from her and not anybody else. She had created bondage that could not allow them to live well with other people in the community (Suma, 2019). For instance, she tells William to move into town, get a good wife who will uplift their social status as a family. Mrs. Morel only had thoughts about herself and the family but no major goal to help the sons out of the bondage. We find that William's death is an escape from the mothers' attachment.

Romantic bondage is also evident in the novel between the mother, husband and Paul. Mrs. Morel goes against the law of marriage and shows dissatisfaction with the highest order from their marriage with Walter. She desires her sons and controls them on who to date and why. For instance, we find that after Williams's death, Mrs. Morel makes Paul lead his life as she wants it to be (Haiyan & Xiaojun, 2016). We find that she accompanies him to his first job interview. After Paul realizes that he has bondage from his mother, she fights silently to get on his feet again as a man. The romantic bondage makes him less of a man who cannot decide anything on himself. To end the bondage, we find that Paul gives an overdose of Morphia pills to die for him to have a free life.

## Contradictions and Oppositions

The novel Author shows how easily contradictions can rule nature regarding love and hate among individuals. Individuals can be contradicted until they do not know their purpose or what decision to make. They do not have correct guidelines to help them distinguish good and bad. Paul is indecisive between love and hate. He fails to know the love to accord his mother and all other women in his life. His life is full of contradictions because living with his mother and always being answerable makes her life a bit complicated. For instance, Paul shows love and hate at the same time. We also find that Mrs. Morel has the same contradiction since she shows

children that their father is bad and hates him, but he still accords him to be the father of her children.

Oppositions is another aspect that Lawrence uses to put a green light on mind and body to bring out the contradictory nature of desire in the novel. We find that characters stay in pairs but with opposite mindsets. Paul is attracted to Miriam, a friend and a spiritual partner, while Miriam has a less intense desire to agree with Paul's allegations (Haiyan & Xiaojun, 2016). The attraction to Clara is different from that of Paul. After Mrs. Morel's death, we find that spiritual relationships remain between him and Walter. The husband is not willing to look at his wife's body due to the opposition that exists between them.

**Mother-Son Relationship**

Lawrence gives many instances of the mother and son relationship and how it can negatively impact them if not practiced correctly. Men should be controlled by performance and purpose as opposed to what we find in the novel. A mother holds their sons' hands to help them make the best leaders who will stand in their homes and maintain good families (Haiyan & Xiaojun, 2016). The Oedipus complex is a certain circumstance, but it shows a different approach that heads in killing dreams of the sons in the novel. For instance, the novel contains a negative mother-son relationship that made things worse in the name of love and consideration.

Mrs. Morel's love for her children is the only bright section of her life. She lived a frustrated life of controlling her sons. She does it the wrong way by despising the romantic love they have for the husband. She lavishes her children and especially William and Paul. Mrs. Morel is attached to her son to the extent that when her husband falls seek, she doesn't feel

bothered as she should. The bond between the father and children is not strong for her to feel so much affected.

The mother-son relationship also ruins the sons' lives. For instance, we find Mrs. Morel insisting that William should marry a well-off woman so that she can assist them herself included. She also doesn't want her son William to get married to Gipsy. She is intimidated that the love will deteriorate since another woman is involved. She fights to have her love stay but fails to let her son progress in life.

After William dies, Mrs. Morel feels like she lost part of her because she was so much attached to the young man to a point she did not want to feel any other attachment with his son by another party. The final instance is that Mrs. Morel affects his son's life (Paul) because she has a girlfriend (Miriam) and she suffers whenever they are together (Ahmed, 2012). Paul's affair gets sour just because he doesn't want his mother to suffer. The relationship is bound by negative jealousy by the mother, who cannot do any good to his son's life.

**Religion**

Lawrence puts across the pretense that people bring along with religion. Religion has become an escape camp for people to lead their lives contrary to the teachings. They use the teachings in religion to intimidate and suppress what is right (Spilka, 2019). Whenever they quote the holy novels and pray, they feel like saints even when they are contrary to the rule of thumb. The author emphasizes some of the instances that show religion and bad usage of it in the dilapidation of human values to save others. For instance, we find that Paul prays for his mother's safety and asks the deity to hurt his father just because his mother has fed bad information into his life.

The reason behind the son's thoughts to kill his father is to ensure her mother is protected. Later, guilt washes over him and he starts to pray for his father as well. On the other hand, Miriam possesses religion and piety until she feels association with her brothers is not worth it (Cornish, 2009). She claims that her brothers and father are vulgar and do not deserve his time at all. She is known to talk to those who attend church services because she believes in the Bible's teachings. Miriam also waits for acknowledgment from God to see whether she will love Paul or not. Not until that time comes, they would not be intimate.

## Industrialism

Lawrence features the industrialism theme in his novel since it was the social-economic life of the families in the novel. The mining company set in the valleys shows industrialism. The economic setup of the community in the Sons and Lovers novel is centered on mining coal to sustain their daily needs and wants (Chowdhury & Mahmud, 2011). The evidence in the novel shows that the family lived under the mining coal stipend provided by Walter.

Mrs. Morel despises the fact that she lives a monotonous life as a wife of a coal miner. The attachment to her children is inclined on the fact that one day she will be taken out of the slum to experience better life than she has with her husband. We also find that Paul longed to grow up and work in the valley. The notion he had from her mother about bad life in the valley is disbanded by him since he found freedom and independence after working. While going to work, Paul and other people are transported by train to work. The experiences show that industrialism is on the highest level.

## Class Conflict

The class conflict is a theme well elucidated in the novel by D.H Lawrence. The novel shows the conflict between the ill-educated, unskilled, and those with rigid morals, where Walter morel is one of the novel's people representing the working category (Luo, 2013). The difference between the existing workers in varied classes is some have skills and others do not have. Lawrence shows how to bring harmony in an environment that has differences. The middle class uses ethics and social inspirations to complement each other. Walter and Gertrude are united because they belong to the same working-class of miners.

## Conclusion

The sons and lovers novel has lessons to learn on bringing up children and forming a society that fits all the values needed to live in harmony. Lawrence articulates a family that has abandoned their father through the use of the Oedipus complex and sees the bad part of their father. Mind you; he is the breadwinner. The mother is overprotective to his sons and brings them up, telling them they should not be like their father, who drinks alcohol. The sons hate their father, but eventually, one son dies. After the mother dies, the surviving son realizes that loving his father was the best thing to make his life worthy of blessings and fun. Alongside the plot, religion, bondage, contradictions and opposition, industrialism, mother-son relationship and class conflict are the major themes outlined in Sons and lovers.

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