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## **Within Our Gates**

Within our gates is an essential film produced by Oscar Micheaux. The film has presented both historical and political concerns that faced American society during the 1900s. Therefore, the film information and knowledge portrayed to the reader can help them visualize and feel the North and the South's political differences. Furthermore, the historical concerns regarding racial prejudices are presented. However, it may not be as bad today as it was, it is critical in the current generation to ensure history does not repeat itself. Besides, the film is related to historical concerns as the film's content is based on helping an African American child get education. Currently, almost every person is entitled to education, and they can quickly get it. However, during those eras presented in the whole film, it rotates around an African American woman, Sylvia Landry, who has an impressive European origin. Sylvia dedicates her life to raise money and help and almost breaks education facilities for poor black children.

Micheaux also presents the political concerns. The film indicates the significant differences between the North and the South. Despite the political system required to fight for equality for all, prejudice to the African Americans in the South is ostensible in the community, complete obliviousness to the kids. Also, political differences are portrayed when Sylvia, a well-educated woman from the North, heads back to their home area and seeks donations to help the school (The Riverbend's Channel, 2011). Although Sylvia was an African American, she was raised in the North, which is why she obtained education. The North and South's political differences bring impeccable discrepancies, as in the North, the African Americans were more respected, can receive education, and had more freedom than in the South.

The film's most striking scene is when an African American pastor decided to deliberately degrade themselves and their race because they need a donation from the white

individuals. According to The Riverbend's Channel (2011), the preacher said that the white individuals are mighty. Nevertheless, after obtaining the funds, the preacher confesses that he has sold his birthright just because of the dejection; all people are equal regardless of skin color. The scene fits with the narrative and racial melodrama because it indicates the psychic pain the black passed through during the white supremacy. The narrative and racial melodrama also fit in this because individuals subject themselves to demeaning their racial identities to get what they need.

### **Reference**

The Riverbend's Channel. (2011). Within our gates (1920)-Micheaux Silent Film.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?t=1&v=h1E0NrcnwAE&feature=youtu.be>

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