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Protagonist Analysis of The Birthmark

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Abstract

This thesis concerns the analysis of Protagonist Analysis of The Birthmark. The research question of this thesis was how the protagonist of the Birthmark short story by Nathaniel Hawthorne is. The design of the research was a descriptive design. A short story titled "The Birthmark," written by Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1843. The plot centres around a prominent birthmark. Aylmer, the main character, is an intelligent, retired scientist whose passion of science is only rivaled by his love for Georgiana, his stunningly gorgeous new wife. Aylmer becomes preoccupied with a crimson, hand-shaped mark on his bride's left cheek shortly after the two marry, a mark Georgiana had deemed a "charm" prior to Aylmer's mention. With each passing day of her husband's devotion, Georgiana's perception of her mark becomes more disgusting. Aylmer is convinced that he can free his wife from this mark, her one imperfection, and he spends the entire novel looking for a way to do so.

Keyword: Protagonist, Birthmark, Aylmer, Intelligent, Character

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A. Introduction

In various stories, such as short stories, fairy tales, legends, and fables, there are characters or characters in the story. The characters in this story are divided into two characterizations, namely the antagonist and the protagonist. These two characters with different traits or characters are related to each other. Although related, these two characters have very different characteristics from each other. A Protagonist is a person with the Extraverted, Intuitive, Feeling, and Judging personality traits. These warm, forthright types love helping others, and they tend to have strong ideas and values. They back their perspective with the creative energy to achieve their goals. Protagonists feel called to serve a greater purpose in life. Thoughtful and idealistic, these personality types strive to have a positive impact on other people and the world around them. They rarely shy away from an opportunity to do the right thing, even when doing so is far from easy. That's reasons why researcher interest in protagonist characterisation.

A short story is a piece of prose fiction that is usually less than 10,000 words long. Short stories are substantially shorter than novels, with only a few people and a single incident being the emphasis. In a short story, characters can be animals, objects, or any character that represents a story. Characters

can be pronouns that indicate people, such as me, you, him, them, and so on. The use of pronouns like this clarifies the point of view of the storytelling.

When viewed from the appearance function, the characters are divided into protagonists, antagonists, and tritagonists. The protagonist is a character who displays something according to the views and expectations of the reader. Describe a good and positive character. The protagonist can attract the reader's empathy and attention. Opponent of the protagonist. The antagonist is one of the characters that causes conflict in the story. This is a bad and negative portrayal of the character. Usually hated by readers. But in some stories, the author also gives a large enough portion to the antagonist so that it attracts the attention of the reader. The tritagonist is also called the third or intermediate character. Depicts a wise character. Serves as a peacemaker or a bridge to conflict resolution. Usually appears as a character who solves a problem in a story. Extras are characters or roles that are less meaningful in the story. Extras are also known as supporting roles. In contrast to the classification of the three previous characters, extras are classified into types of characters based on the level of importance of the role.

B. Methods

In collecting data, the researcher used the following techniques:

1. Identifying character in story that researcher wants to investigate by reading the whole short story.
2. Reading the whole short story of *The Birthmark* focusing on protagonist Aylmer
3. The researcher takes notes and quotes the required expression or sentences from the story that supports the analysis.
4. Arranging the results by analyzing protagonist character of short story

C. Discussion

Aylmer, a physicist recognized throughout the scientific community for his genius, is the protagonist of 'The Birthmark.' Georgina, who is praised for her beauty, is his wife. Georgina, on the other hand, has one noticeable flaw a birthmark or blemish on her left cheek, which is a small crimson mark in the shape of a hand. Aylmer offers removing the birthmark in order to complete his nearly-perfect wife's physical perfection. Georgina eventually accepts, trusting in her husband's abilities, despite her initial disappointment that he finds her birthmark so frightening. She accepts the fact that she should chance the experiment since she would rather die than live with such a blemish, which causes her husband such dread. Georgina is shown about Aylmer's laboratory, where he does his experiments. She is taken aback when she discovers his notebook, which details his various experiments, and promises to trust him when he tests on her. Aylmer makes a potion with the help of his servant, which he shows working on a plant by bringing its leaves back to life. Georgina takes the potion down, confident that it will work. She falls asleep, and Aylmer realizes that his wife's hand-shaped birthmark on her cheek is gradually vanishing. Aylmer shows her that the birthmark has vanished and that he has succeeded when she wakes up. His wife, on the other hand, admits that she is dying, and she dies in front of him shortly after.

Aylmer is clearly the main character of this tale and the one around whom the tale revolves. His desires drive the story; his mistakes embody Hawthorne's didactic end-game. As a reader, you may sympathize with Aylmer's intentions, which he truly believes to be good. In his mind, and in Georgiana's, his love is all the more noble, and all the more lofty, for his dedication to perfection.

You can be tempted to make Georgiana the protagonist if you enjoy Aylmer as the enemy. We sympathize with her because she was harmed by the enemy (her husband), she is innocent by nature, and she suffers for no reason of her own. If you tend to interpret "Birthmark" as a tragedy, this choice for the protagonist might be a good fit.

D. Conclusion

Aylmer represents the intellectual and spiritual aspects of humanity as both a protagonist and antagonist in the novel. "Aylmer's thin stature, and pale, scholarly face, were no less fit a model of the spiritual element," Hawthorne says in the second half of the novel. Both of these tendencies are

reflected in Aylmer's pursuit for perfection through science and his overarching idea that the natural world may be improved. On the other hand, in another interpretation of "The Birthmark," Aylmer is a shallow, obsessive perfectionist who murders his wife by dabbling in areas beyond his control in an attempt to play God. In terms of Aylmer as antagonist, it pretty well sums it up.

8

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