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Impact of Relationships on an Individual’s Life

In the seminal work of Harper Lee, “To Kill a Mocking Bird”, the author proffers the prevalence of good and bad effects on an individual through the influence of relationships. The bonds and associations between Bob Ewell and Mayella, Atticus and Scout in the novel are portrayed to be instrumental in shaping the personality of an individual. This paper strives to look into the dynamics between the characters of the novel and propounds that there is a strong and lasting impact of relationships in an individual’s life.

Family relationships constitute a central theme in the novel. There are many instances whereby interactions among members of the Finch family are depicted. Various families in the novel, Radleys, Robinsons, Ewells, and Finches illustrate a number of different models of intimate associations and affiliations taking place on an everyday basis. As the plot unfolds, the basic premise of a fundamental notion is revealed that the personality of an individual is formed by the influence of social tensions and flexibilities among the people around him. All the characters in this novel evolve through a peculiar framework that is structured on the subtleties and undercurrents of various relationships in the novel. Harper Lee efficaciously advocates that conflicts and differences of opinion are inevitable in a family but some bonds can never be broken beyond repair. Scout, Atticus, and Jem face a lot of obstacles but they don’t allow these problems to affect their relationships. The novel is a true sketch of the fact that children and adolescents are a product of their domestic environment and the underpinnings of their parent’s relations.

Upon reflection of the novel, the readers are acquainted with the leaps and decisions taken by the major characters. Life lessons gathered through the understanding of various relationships and some traumas faced by the characters are the precursors of changes in the personality of an individual and this conception has been largely supported by this novel. Characters of the novel are obligated to scrutinize and closely inspect their surroundings through the lens of societal linkages and the intensity of relationships among people around them. A thorough comprehension and understanding of concepts such as bravery, humanity, and cowardice is only gained when an individual experiences such occurrences through his family members. This novel is a unique exploration in the keystones of human morality and the plot strengthens the fact that inherent goodness or evil in an individual can be transformed or altered through the impact of his relationships. The plot of the novel alludes to many points during which the characters are seen to be negotiating those boundaries which are socially fabricated (Lee). The consideration of a social setting and particular environment in which an individual grows is central to his or her conformation into the labyrinths of intrapersonal and interpersonal relationships. Encouragement of the right relationship can bring an increase in the moral growth of an individual which is evident from the dynamics between Scout and her father, Atticus Finch. Atticus Finch, who is also considered the protagonist of this novel, is interpreted as the symbol of conscience as he instructs his children about the demarcations between good and evil and guides his family members to respond rationally in all situations.

Family relations and gender roles through sturdy bonds between parents and their children have been closely examined in this novel. The development of an intuitive sense in individuals is primarily based on the observations which they gather from the interactions taking place between their family members. In the pursuit of inculcating moral values in an individual, relationships play a pivotal role and the author has successfully substantiated this proposition in this novel.

**Works Cited:**

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Random House, 2010.