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Date

Modern Men of the 1920s

In the first scene of the play, you can picture the physical appearances of the lower class workers and how animalistic they look and act. “All are dressed in dungaree pants, heavy ugly shoes. Some wear singlets, but the majority are stripped to the waist” (Scene 1 para. 1). “The room is crowded with men, shouting, cursing, laughing, singing – a confused, inchoate uproar swelling into a sort of unity, a meaning – the bewildered, furious, baffled defiance of a beast in a cage” (Scene 1 para. 1). With O’Neil referencing the men acting like beasts in the cage, it is used correctly only because of the fact that men are cursing, drinking, being obnoxious and are not acting humane. It not only shows how inconsiderate and careless they are, it shows that they are not afraid to act like animals. O’Neil’s perspective about modern men as laborers is not only a typical 1920s stereotype, but they are seen differently as men, especially compared to the modern men of Fifth Avenue and to men of a higher class.

This student has summarized a piece of literature and incorporated textual examples along with citations.

Yank is described as “broader, fiercer, more truculent, more powerful, more sure of himself than the rest” (Scene 1 para. 3). To describe how the men would work as laborers are reflected solely on Yank and how he acts as an individual which is then reflected on the men as a whole. Yank is big on what he does because that’s all he and his men know how to do. These men are born into a lower class of laborers and live the rest of their lives knowing only what they have been born

The author includes textual evidence to justify the relationship between Yank and the other laborers.

11-12.RL.2.1

into. The modern men during this time are drunk, lazy, but hardworking men who wake up each day going to do what they do best. In some circumstances these type of men are interrupted with the distractions of strange women such as Mildred Douglas. She keeps the men from doing their work and as a result Yank's anger comes out while unknowingly Mildred hears everything behind him.

After hearing Yank use cruel words such as: "Come down and I'll moider yuh! Pullin' dat whistle on me, huh? I'll show yuh! I'll crash yer skull in! I'll drive yer teet' down yer troat! I'll slam yer nose trou de back of yer head!" (Scene 3 para. 12). Mildred speaks out and ends up going ballistic and says, "Oh the filthy beast!" (Scene 3 para. 13). After Yank was called a "filthy beast" it really gets to him and sets off a fury which he then ends up getting off the ship and going to explore Fifth Avenue. While off on his own he explores Fifth Avenue and sees everything in a whole new perspective as if her were in another world. When the church session lets out, he sees the people dressed up in suits and ties which angers him even more. He ends up acting reckless and careless and ends up getting arrested. He punched a man in the face due to all of the anger of how much he doesn't belong. The more angry he gets the more he feels that he doesn't belong and as a result he continues to believe that he is good for nothing and makes himself seem like he's a "Hairy Ape."

The more you tell yourself that you are something, the more you are going to believe that you are that something. For Yank to see that he is born a laborer is hard because he doesn't want to except it. Therefore, O'Neil is saying that modern men of the 1920s didn't have much to live up to except to themselves. The men of Fifth Avenue may be a higher class, but it doesn't mean that they are truly happy with their inner selves. In conclusion, Yank never truly found out who

Student has analyzed the author's diction of "filthy beast" which takes the protagonist into his downward spiral.

11-12.RL.2.3

he really was because of how harshly he took on the phrase of a “Hairy Ape” that Mildred portrayed on him.

This student has adequately summarized a piece of literature using textual examples and cited those examples accordingly, qualifying this piece as “marginally prepared.”

Though some analysis is present, more analysis and less summary of the text would have demonstrated greater understanding from the student. The addition of textual support and better attention to MLA citation formatting would have qualified this paper as “prepared.”

Works Cited

1. (Scene # para. #)

O'Neil, Eugene. *The Hairy Ape*. [bartleby.com](http://www.bartleby.com). Web. 20 April April, 2015

<http://www.bartleby.com/230/11.html>