

Student's Name

Teacher's Name

Course Name

Hairy Modern Men

The Hairy Ape (1921) starts to take place in a streamliner in New York. We are introduced to Yank, a hardworking man who takes his job seriously and feels strongly about it. As the story develops we learn that Yank's life is his job and he knows nothing outside of work. His job gives him a sense of security and empowerment and belonging but once he steps out of his comfort zone or his society there's conflict within himself. O'Neill shows us a dehumanized industrial man who takes and tends to his day job innately, much like the modern man.

Although somewhat vague, this student offers a nuance of the word "man"
11-12.RV.2.3

Scene one is all about Yank loving his job and feeling a sense of pride in himself and what he does. His outlook on life is not based on experiences nor reason, rather based on occurrences that take place on the streamliner. O'Neill describes Yank with animalistic features, hence the "hairy ape" references in scene one his actions are frequently described as him being "good-natured" () or speaking "contemptuously" (). His life and knowledge revolves and is depended on what goes on in the streamliner he works on. Yank does not seem to acknowledge the troubles that everyday people face, his main concern is what liquor he's going to have that day. Many men in the 1920's only knew their jobs. These jobs were tedious, time consuming, and rigorous, leading to them not having a life outside of work. Works was their life.

In scene two, we are introduced to a character that changes the way Yank views life. He starts to question life, and his purpose as a man when a young woman named Mildred decides to arrange and see how the liner works and the behind the scenes actions of how the boat works. A

couple of weeks later Yank decides to go visit Fifth Avenue and finds himself asking where he belongs and what his purpose to serve is. He is so dehumanized because of the industrial job he had been working that he found himself not fitting in or getting along with everyday middle class people who were average just like him. He found himself getting in a fight and paying for his actions by going to jail. After this incident Yank found himself having a conversation with a police officer which turned into him asking the officer what his place or where he belonged and the officer responding with “Go to hell” (scene 7).

Throughout the piece, here in particular, the author makes claims without incorporating textual evidence. Adding quotations from the literature would strengthen these claims.

Throughout this story Yank struggles to find out who he really is outside of work, outside of being drunk on a liner with a daily routine. He gets so caught up in his work he slowly forgets and becomes a stranger to himself. Throughout the play we see O’Neill trying to make Yank come to and find his role not only in society but what the purpose within himself was.

Gregory wood states in *Retiring Men: Manhood, Labor, and Growing Old in America 1900-1960* that “Institutionalization provided another means of possible support for aging working-class men and women during the early twentieth century. However, state-run institutions, known as ‘poorhouses,’ ‘poor farms,’ and ‘almshouses,’ were the most problematic and undesirable source of support for older americans” (Wood 69-70). Yank and the other men on the streamliner basically live in a poorhouse. The conditions on the streamliner are very poor and are problematic.

The author attempts to compare the aging of Yank to other working class men during the time period via Wood’s text.
11-12.RN.2.2

Some ideas, like in this sentence below for example, have not been fully developed throughout the essay.

These conditions caused Yank, much like many other men today and in the 1920’s. Wood explains that “poorhouses encapsulated central themes in early-twentieth century discourses on aging, gender, and work: the deconstruction of marriage and family; the unmanliness of

dependence...” (Wood 70). These are all problems that jobs in the early twentieth century and today that are very much relevant. Whether its 1920 or 2015 the labor force has been institutionalizing and dehumanizing men for a very long time, and making them loose sight of themselves and their purpose in life.

This student has provided summary and minimal analysis of a text with the application of an additional source, qualifying the essay as “marginally prepared.” More textual evidence for claims and further development of ideas would have qualified this paper as “prepared.”

Works Cited

Wood, Gregory. *Retiring Men: Manhood, Labor, and Growing Old in American 1900-1960*.

University Press of America. Print. 2012.