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Family Dysfunction in "*Fences*"

The Author August Wilson in the play "*Fences*" tells us Troy Maxson being the Father and the breadwinner in this Maxson's family and ultimately causes family dysfunction in the end. Troy is Father of three children. First child Lyons is born out of wedlock, comes Cory who is the only legitimate child with Troy's current wife Rose. Later in the play there is an additional child named Raynell who came after Troy cheats his wife. In this play Troy is a very strong, hardworking man of color who takes care of his family. At the same time he is bitter because he couldn't accomplish his dreams because of racial segregation he faced back in his days as he grew up, from all these distractions and unbearable frustrations in life. Troy's past was very difficult and impoverished after being abandoned by his poor father who raised him and his siblings under very harsh conditions. He extends this to his son Cory and apparently caused much dysfunction, by doing so much of control and at the same time feared his son will as well go through the same fate as a black young man.

In the play "Fences" written by August Wilson, Troy Maxson is mostly the main

character who is a hard, tough love family man. He plays a huge role in this play with a bunch of titles of which some he has revealed to be strong as a man of

color by working so very hard and providing for his family and being weak by revealing his bitterness from the past. This ultimately puts apart his small family

becoming so dysfunctional, he did not achieve His dream as a baseball player because of the racial segregation he encountered when growing up as a man of color. Troy was raised by a very cruel father who did not care of his children and experienced a difficult upbringing life which he is passing onto his son Cory. He also encountered racial segregation on his sporting career that led him to discourage his, son Cory and therefore ruined his son's dream career.

In much fear Troy couldn't compromise for his son to take chances the challenges he Troy faced as a black man by the white folks. Troy died miserably disconnected to his son Cory and his wife because of his arrogance over controlling personality and ultimately infidelity he portrayed to his family.

Rose was just an awesome woman in this play as she really portrays an amazing mother figure to all of Troy's children nevertheless only had Cory as her child. She was treated unfairly by her husband as he cheated on her and had a girlfriend resulting in the baby and loss of the baby's mother. Rose embraces the child and takes care like her own. But she punishes Troy for his wrongdoing and the relationship was so dysfunctional until the time of Troy's death.

Cory is the only child who was born in this legitimate marriage between Troy and Rose, whilst Lyons and Raynell were from different mothers and were his half siblings. His initial carrier

Football was hindered by his father who kept reflecting on his failure through racial challenges he faced as a black man back in his days. Cory later joined the Military but got disconnected to his father until the time of his Father's death. He shows respect by attending the Father's funeral but bitterness haunts him until his mother calms him down.

" Fences " signifies in the play some protection which seem never to be accomplished as Troy wanted to put a fence to protect his family from outsiders but indeed he became couldn't make it, ultimately failed by adding more problems to his family cheating his wife outside of their marriage.

The symbols are the baseball bat which Troy kept for so many years and always reminded him of the discrimination that hindered his career . The other symbol is death .Troy kept on talking about death and how he has gained victory over it but finally it overpowered him and he finally died.

This play teaches me that in life it's not all that we plan will be successful but one way or the other will be successful, it always takes determination . I also learned not to trust people so too much .As a woman looking at the life of Rose , she was so sincere, honest and very genuine but little did she know her husband was cheating on her. Not only cheating but to the extent of bring another baby at their age that's so heartbreaking .Women many at times we are treated so unfairly and at the end of the day we give in , forgive and moves on with life like nothing ever happened. Sometimes the offender does not even apologize but we carry such burdens and always become the recipients of the others mistakes. The pure Heart of a mother matters the most .God bless women .I read the critical article by Susan Koprince , stating how the author August Wilson articulated this short play .She describes Troy Maxson is indeed a Blackman who had all his hope in the baseball sport and as it was back in the days , color mattered up until now .There has been. Racism but not at the same time meaning that Troy given the opportunity was to do any better than those who made it or who dint make its.It was a dream .Bart Giamatti once wrote , Baseball "is the last pure place where Americans can dream".This statement is not

excluding Troy as it was his dream too besides being man of color or negro as per text. Hence racism overrides the dream and totally aborts it. This leaves poor Troy with bitterness for life.

Looking in the passage Susan Koprince the author of this article , reveals also reality from other baseball players what they went through during their days in sporting, this exactly depicts the reality of what Troy went through .The segregation was at its peak whereby Blacks couldn't mix with whites in all aspects not only sporting , restaurants, hotels etc .There were treated like second class citizens in their own country so following this article it was very difficult for Troy Mason's, I turn to be in his shoes . His passion was cut off and he didn't by any chance wanted this to happen to his son knowing the situation he effortlessly went through, without redemption, he wouldn't want his son to take chances , but at the same time his son did not understand maybe its way Troy expressed his feelings and bitterness. The article's author brings out a good point that Jim Bono Troy's friend and Rose, Troy's wife calming him down that it was back then, now Blackman or negroes have the access to be successful in Sport , but apparently this did not work . Doesn't have any impact on Troy he remained holding on to the past. Ultimately dying without accomplishing his passions but life forced him to embrace the unexpected hard life.

Works Cited

Koprince, Susan. "Baseball as History and Myth in August Wilson's 'Fences.'" *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 349-358. *Academic Search Complete, Ebscohost,*

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