

Former Student

Professor Chapman

English 403

DATE

### Corduroy Mini Analysis

The book *Corduroy* is a simple but poignant classic. The author addresses an issue that has affected all people, from all cultures throughout time. The issue of love and belonging despite any flaws or imperfections we may have. People as a whole need love and belonging for their own emotional well-being and self-actualization. Things must be loved first to be able to love in return.

When thinking about what makes this story important, the unconditional love that was displayed to the toy from the little girl, many things come to mind that are comparable. The one that came to mind first was the 2003 Christmas movie *Elf*. The story begins with an orphaned child who makes his way into the heart and home of Santa Claus by stowing away in his sack. Despite his obvious differences from the elves that live at the North Pole, they showed him love. Buddy the Elf soon noticed his differences and found himself longing for belonging among people of his own kind. To achieve this he set out to find his father, who initially rejects him because he is different than other people from the way he dressed, behaved, ate and loved. When he meets his younger half-brother, the two eventually come to see eye to eye and form a bond. Buddy gains acceptance and love from his sibling when others were reluctant to love him because he was different.

This is the same concept behind the book *Corduroy*. The tiny bear thought he was an unwanted toy among the others that he sat on the shelf alongside. He was unaware of his

imperfections until a little girl and her mother came along. The little girl found love and wants for the bear immediately, but the mother was a bit more skeptical. She pointed out the obvious imperfections to the child about the bear and expressed her doubt in his value. Despite the mother's discouragement, the child used her own money to buy the bear that she found an unconditional love for. She took the bear in and fixed his button so that he would be more comfortable and more than likely feel less self-conscious about. This provided the toy with a feeling of self-worth, love and belonging.

I do find the setting of the story to be interesting as well as the characters. The book is written in 1968. The main characters are an African American girl and her mother in a department store. The characters lived in an apartment building with no mention of any other family member being present.

The story of *Corduroy* is a classic in many ways. It teaches children the importance of acceptance of others despite any differences they may have. It introduces the concepts of love and belonging to children and the knowledge of the importance of individuality. This was an excellent literary pick.

#### Work Cited

Freeman, Don. *Corduroy*. New York, Viking, 1968. Print.