

## 1<sup>st</sup> Essay

"Nadine Gordimer implicitly and explicitly urges onward a historical process whose revolutionary phase must destroy the comfortable contexts within which she writes" Discuss

"White pariah dogs in a black ~~ess~~ continent" is how Nadine Gordimer pictured the whites in South Africa, who were given prominence by the system of ~~apa~~ Apartheid in her novel "July's People".

In this novel, Gordimer implicitly and explicitly urges onward a historical process whose revolutionary phase must destroy the comfortable context within which she writes.

In other terms, Gordimer elucidates her alternate historical process: the destruction of the ~~ap~~ Apartheid, whose revolutionary phase is the insurrection of the Black South Africans against the Whites. In her novel, this uprising destroys the comfortable contexts within which she writes: the privileged life led by the whites under the system of Apartheid. Gordimer has stated this both directly and indirectly.

July's People consists of explicit situations that depict the above: the urge of a system of the Blacks. The primary explicit situation is seen when the Smiles family flee their city of Johannesburg as "the whites are being killed in their houses" and are "chased away from their houses". This explains how the Blacks overpower the Whites, taking power into their hands. Hence, this is an explicit instance that denotes the above expectation of Gordimer.

Furthermore, Gordimer has narrated how the power of the white authority slowly receded in the face of the revolutionary Black people. This is directly implied in July's utterance - "the white policeman is run away when the black soldiers come that time." This portrays how the historical process of change of the oppressing system of ~~apartn~~ <sup>ess</sup> came into life, justifying the aforementioned statement.



Moreover, Gordimer has directly stated how the destruction of the comfortable contexts within which she writes (*The Apartheid*) can pave away to a system of equality. This is explicitly mentioned through Bam's act of helping July and his black people as seen in

"Bam could help July mend such farming tools" and also in his action of "rigging up a water tank". Hence, Gordimer has explicitly explained how co-existence can be given birth if the system of Apartheid is incinerated.

In addition to the explicit description of how the Apartheid system can be overthrown, Gordimer has also mentioned implicit instances that convey the same message. July's initiative to possess the "keys" and the "Bakkie" can be cited as examples for these are symbols that elucidates the shift of power from the whites to the Black. As July "patted the car keys in his pocket", he affirmed the newly arised potential of the Blacks.

Apart from this, Gordimer has implicitly explained how the future generation can grow up foster equality, after the Apartheid system is overthrown. This is metaphorically suggested through Gina Smiles. Her "friendship" with Nyiko "is too deep and secret" and shows how the future generations can live harmoniously. She Gordimer reinforces this implicit notion through Gina who "learned their language", the language of the Black South Africans, "through private talks between Nyiko and herself." Accordingly, the above stated sentence can be justified.

Also, the ambiguous ending of the novel is an implicit call of the result of the destruction of the Apartheid system. Maureen Smiles "runs" towards the helicopter, which could carry "saviours or murderers". Nevertheless, "she runs", in her state of frenzy, confusion



agitation and depression. This would be what the whites would feel if the Blacks did overthrow their system of inequality. The ~~not~~ future, <sup>the</sup> existence of the whites is are uncertain. This is what Gordimer urged implicitly in her novel.

In addition to the above examples, explicit conveyance of the system of equality, the system of blacks is seen when Martha suggested that July could work independently and there is no need of being under the whites anymore, July no longer using the pass, the Smales family gradually adapting to the life style of the Blacks and Daniel getting the shotgun of Bam; these portray the shift of power from the whites to the Blacks. Moreover, this new power dynamic is implicitly stated when July brings commodities according to his knowledge and preferences, to the Smales, the Smales family being compelled to seek permission from the Black Chief, July learning to drive from another Black person, rather than from Bam and Maureen and Bam being unable to listen to the radio. Thus, this draws the picture of ~~the~~ how the historical process who revolutionary phases destroys the Apartheid.

In conclusion, Nadine Gordimer implicitly and explicitly urges onward a historical process, whose revolutionary phase must destroy the comfortable context within which she writes.