Student’s Name

Professor’s Name

Course

Date

Fences- Alienation of Troy

The play fences are divided into two. One act has four scenes, whereas the other has five. The play begins before a weekend when troy and Bonos are expecting their pay. Both go to Troy's house for drinks and chat, as this was their weekly custom. Troy asked their boss, Mr. Rand, why the black employees were prohibited from driving the garbage trucks but filling garbage into the trucks. On the other hand, Bono thinks Troy has an affair with another woman. Cory is Troy and Rose's son and is recruited to play for the college's football team (Thifault 146). Troy played in the Negro leagues but failed to break into the Major league due to his age when the league started accepting Blacks. Troy dived deep into his experience and the struggles he faced to the point of death in 1943. Lyon shows up at Troy’s being aware that that was his payday. Moreover, Rose reminds Troy about the unfinished fence he began to build.

As Cory and Troy attend to the unfinished fence, Cory tells troy about giving away his job at the grocery store during the football season. Cory proceeds to beg Troy to let him try out for the football team upon hearing a coach from North Carolina was on his way to see him play (Roudané 138). Troy refuses the proposal and asks him to get back his job. Act one scene four mirrors Scene one; Troy wins his case, is assigned a garbage truck, and becomes the first-ever black truck driver in the city. Bono and troy, on the hand, reflect on their father's experience in moving from the south northwards. Cory comes home angered after finding out he discouraged Cory and went further to tell the football coach not to allow him to play on the team. As for Troy, Cory's insubordination was the first strike against him.

Troy bails Gabriel, his brother, from jail. Bono and Troy are working on the fence as he explains to Troy and his wife how important the fence will be to her family. Rose loves her family and wants to keep them close to her love. Troy admits to Bono about cheating on his wife with Alberta. While working on the fence, Bono bets troy on buying his wife Lucille a refrigerator after they finish working on it (Roudané 139). It is a promise that has been made for a while. Troy speaks with his wife Rose about a court hearing to determine the fate of Gabriel on being recommitted to the asylum. Troy opens up to Rose about the affair he has with Alberta. With frustration, Rose accuses him of taking and not giving. Troy grabs Rose's arm, and Cory grabs Him from behind, leading to a fight. Troy wins the brawl and calls the second strike on Cory.

Six months pass, and Troy visits Alberta in Hospital after going into labor earlier on. Rose informs Troy that Gabriel was taken to the asylum since Troy failed to read the papers and signed him away. Alberta delivered a baby girl, but she died during birth. Troy challenges death to come for him after building the fence. Troy brings home baby Raynell, who Rose takes up as her own, but she rejects wife duties to Troy (Menson-Furr, 1). On payday, Bono shows up unexpectedly at Troy's, and both acknowledge how each man fulfilled the bet on the fence and the refrigerator. Troy insists that Cory leave the house and start providing for himself. However, Cory presents Troy with his failings to Rose and points out that the house and property he is being thrown out of belonged to Gabriel. Gabriel's government checks paid the house mortgage. Hence, Troy physically attacks Cory and eventually kicks him out for good. As Cory leaves, Troy swings a baseball bat making taunts to death.

After eight years, Raynell plays around her newly planted and kept garden. Troy dies from a heart attack which causes Cory to return home from the Marines for the funeral. Bono and Lyons join Rose, but Cory refuses to attend (Roudané 143). Rose gives a valuable lesson to Cory that failure to attend his father's funeral does not make him a man. Raynell and Cory sing a blues song from his collection. Gabriel shows up after escaping from the mental asylum. Gabe sounds the trumpet which produces no sound, and he is disappointed and hurt. Nonetheless, Gabriel dances and cries and the heavens open and say, "That's the way that goes," as the play concludes.

**Alienation of Troy from his Family**

Troy first falls out with his son due to his perspective on events that happened to him in the past. Troy sees Cory's future differently and does not want his son to undergo the same disappointments he had grown up and in becoming a professional football player. Therefore, he demands that Cory works after school instead of attending practice with the football team. Even though the Black players are accepted into the team, but still denies his son this opportunity (Thifault 145). He tells the coach to prohibit his son from playing. Even after Cory presents his father with a list of successful black athletes, Troy still refuses to allow him to take that path. Troy states, “Sometimes I wish I hadn’t known my daddy. . . . But I’ll say this for him . . . he felt a responsibility toward us. Maybe he ain’t treated us the way I felt he should have . . . but without that responsibility, he could have walked off and left us”. Therefore, a conflict grows and pushes the two apart from each other. Troy insists his son continue with the work job he had in the local grocery store. Moreover, the job he is urging his son to keep is fair and not under the mercy of white employers, unlike in the major baseball league. In as much as he has what is best for his son, he shatters his dreams instead of supporting them.

Another issue that brings rifts is the lack of a communicative relationship with his wife. From the very onset, Troy seems to be a self-sufficient confident man, and this makes him lock out his wife from decision making. In matters of family, there is a need to sit down and discuss issues together and come to a consensus. Troy has an affair with Alberta. He decides to open up and tell Rose about the affair, and any normal man should realize that the news will not taste well in their spouse's mouth. He defends his affair, claiming that spending time with Alberta provided an illusion of accomplishment. Rightly Rose highlights his selfish nature, which causes another fight. Rose says, “ I gave everything I had to try and erase the doubt that you wasn’t the finest man in the world. And wherever you was going . . . I wanted to be there with you. Because you were my husband. Cause that’s the only way I was gonna survive as your wife.” Cory comes to defend the mother, but he is beaten up by the father (Thifault 146). Rose and Cory are on good terms, but the constant bullying from the father creates a gap between them. In act two Cory describes to Rose that "Papa was like a shadow that followed you everywhere."

**Conclusion**

Troy was so attached to his unfulfilled dreams to the point of neglecting his family. These dreams caused him to have an affair with Alberta in a bid to try to have a sense of accomplishment. Nonetheless, as a father, being self-centered is a trait one should neglect. A father should not only be willing to make sacrifices but also allow freedom of expression and support them in their dreams and aspirations; as he says “ It’s my responsibility! Do you understand that? A man got to take care of his family. You live in my house . . . sleep you behind on my bedclothes . . . fill you belly up with my food . . . cause you my son. You my flesh and blood. Not cause I like you! Cause it’s my duty to take care of you!”. Moreover, Troy needed to find some sense of accomplishment in having a happy family and with his son joining the major league, he missed out on an opportunity due to his age.

Works Cited

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