Roman Fever Questions

Tate Finger, Quang Huynh, Brianna Warden

1. Ansley and Slate is characterized as jealous and envious of each other. Furthermore, one of the two women is described as small and pale, while the other is described as high of color in the story. For example, Mrs. Slade envies Mrs. Ansley’s daughter. This is because Mrs. Slade has a perfect daughter, as Mrs. Slade just wants an ordinary and edgy child just like Barbara, Ansley’s daughter. Mrs. Slade wants to know that she has value in something, because when Delphin Slade dies, Mrs. Slade doesn’t feel any value nor honor anymore because when she was married to Delphin, she felt honored. Some characterization devices that the author uses to state Mrs. Slade’s superiority at the beginning of the story are her inner thoughts and actions. For instance, she thinks that since she had mailed Mrs. Ansley the letter, that she is superior. But then, Mrs. Ansley becomes superior when she mails back the false letter to Delphin, and they have an affair. Then at the end of the story, she says that she had Barbara with Delphin. So basically, the point when Mrs. Ansley becomes superior was when she claims that she has had an affair with Delphin.
2. In paragraph twenty-four, the phrase “…the wrong end of [the] little telescope” means that each of the women were looking at one another from the wrong perspective. Each of the women, specifically Slade towards Ansley, had something that they didn’t like about the other. For most of their lives, they saw each other only as they presented themselves. Ansley was prudish and well-behaved for her parents. Nearly perfect. Slade was not that way and in turn was very envious of Ansley, while Ansley felt sorry for Slade due to all the disappointment in her life. This is proven in paragraph 23, which states, “sometimes Mrs. Ansley thought Alida Slade was disappointed; on the whole she had a sad life. Full of failures and mistakes...” This proves that Ansley different ideas of Slade that contrasted who she really was, while Slade was simply jealous of Ansley.

4. Mrs. Ansley is not doing anything to provoke Mrs. Slade’s envy intentionally. Mrs. Slade was always envious of Ansley for her prudishness and because she was seeing her fiancé, Delphin, in private. She worried that Delphin would choose Ansley over her. Moreover, Slade held onto her negative feelings because it was so long ago in the past. She also saw that soon after the affair ended, Ansley got married, and that convinced her that she never truly cared for Delphin in the first place.

5. The two plots, occurring in the present and past show great contrast from one another, while still being in resemblance of the other. In the past, Mrs. Slade was jealous of the relationship between Delphin and Mrs. Ansley. In contrast, Mrs. Slade feels envy for Mrs. Ansley’s daughter being imperfect rather than the jealousy she had felt before. Furthermore, the two plots resemble each other by Mrs. Slade’s paralleled disapproval for the relations of Mrs. Ansley. The purpose of the contrast between the two daughters is to show how the women are different, as assumed by the end of the story, Barbara is also the daughter of Delphin, just like Jenny.

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4. Mrs Ansley is not doing anything to provoke Mrs Slade’s envy intentionally. Mrs Slade was always envious of Ansley for her prudishness and because she was seeing her fiancé, Delphin, in private. She worried that Delphin would choose Ansley over her. Moreover, Slade held onto her negative feelings because it was so long ago in the past. She also saw that soon after the affair ended, Ansley got married, and that convinced her that she never truly cared for Delphin in the first place.

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