

Weiqi Wang

ENGL113

April 7, 2023

Topic #2

Do we need intensity and passion in life in order to live well? Yes, it is. Both *Equus* and *'Night, Mother* told a story about a psychopath. However, Alan in *Equus* had passion to live while Jessie in *'Night, Mother* didn't at all, and it leads to the huge difference in ending between these two plays – Jessie decided to suicided while Alan was eager to live. In this case, not only the passion is the factor pushing people to live well, but also the passion determines if a people could live.

But I do not (or cannot) just finish my paper like this. If we exclude depressed people who have no passion to live, then we can assume all the people I am discussing in my paper have the passion to live. Then the topic is about living well as it is, not just living. There are huge differences between living and living well, we know Alan in *Equus* or the mother in *'Night Mother* are living, but we can hardly to say they are living well. The passion for Alan in *Equus* to live is his faith of horse, this passion pushing him working as a horse keeper, but his out-controlling of his passion promote him do dangers behavior, like he blinded the horses. The mother in *'Night Mother* had passion to live, but this passion was ambiguous so that she just living for living.

So, we can make a further conclusion that passion is particularly significant for a person to live, but have no effect to help a person living well. I want to go further more on this topic, but we should think a related and important topic first, that is, how to define 'living well'?

Sadly, we can't define 'living well', because every people have their own thinking on living well. We cannot say earning two-hundred thousand dollars in an annual is the standard of living well. Earning two-hundred thousand dollars is good, but if we work from 9 am to 11 pm, 14 hours a day to gain this amount of salary and have no time to do the things we want to do personally, then some of us would not thinking this kind of life as they want to live. In the opposite, a well living should be accepted and satisfied by a person. In other word if the person accepts and satisfied his own

living or a kind of living, then we can consider this kind of living as a well living.

If we define a well living like this, then there will exist a well-living trap. Sometimes people think they living a good life, but this life is only good as it looks like, there are conflict hidden in it and would break out someday. For example, before the 'Night Mother, the mother would accept and satisfied her life before Jessie suicided. But the life of the mother is without thinking by her, she accepted and satisfied her life because this is the only life she lived. Let us thinking from a different perspective, if the mother not accepted and satisfied her life, she would do something to make her life better, but she wasn't do anything. Another example is Nora in *A Doll's House*, she seems to accepted and satisfied her life before she started thinking about it. However, it was not a well-living to Nora and then since she begun to thinking about it, she found out she wasn't happy and her husband was not the man she would like to living for. In summary, a true well living should accepted and satisfied by a person after this person have thought for this living, or else it would be a well living trap.

Passion can help us pursue our well-living, if we transform passion as our energy of living correctly. In other word, we should control our passion to help us pursue our well-living. If we read an autobiography of a famous people, like Steve Jobs or Bill Gates, we can easily find them all have their great passion on something. What more, these people all use their passion doing the things they think as valuable. Reversely, Elan in *Equus* had his passion, he did transform his passion as his energy of living but he didn't think about a life he would accept and satisfy, so that he can't take control of his passion and his life.

In conclusion, passion is important to a person to live, but to help the person live a well-living, the person should think for his living and control his passion to help him pursue the well-living he would accept and satisfy.

Work Cited

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*. Dover Publications, 1992.

Norman, Marsha. *'night, Mother*. Hill and Wang, 1983.

Shaffer, Peter. *Equus*. Scronmer, 2002.