

CHAPTER III

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SHORT STORY

The biography of the author, Masterpiece of DH Lawrence, the summary of the short story and the characters and characterizations will be explained in this chapter.

A. The Profile of The Author

David Herbert Lawrence, the fourth child born to a virtually illiterate coal miner and his educated, pious wife, was one of England's most controversial men of letters. He also struggled with health problems through his life, dying of tuberculosis at age forty-five.

In 1901, Lawrence left high school to work as a clerk in a factory. After convalescing from pneumonia, he became a pupil-teacher. In 1908, Lawrence began teaching in a London suburb and working on his first novel, *The White Peacock* (1911). In 1912, Lawrence's mother died, he resigned his teaching position, and he fell in love and ran off with Frieda van Richthofen Weekley, the wife of one of his college professors and the sister of the red Baron, Germany's famed World War I aviator. The following year Lawrence's partly autobiographical novel, *Sons and Lovers* (1913), was published. Praised for its portrait of English meaning life, it was also severely criticized for its language and its frank treatment of sexuality. Two years later his

novel *The Rainbow* (1915) was seized by the police and suppressed as obscene.

After 1919, in search of a more congenial and healthful environment, Lawrence and Frieda traveled extensively and continuously, visiting Italy, Capri, Sicily, Germany, Ceylon, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, the French Riviera, Mexico, and the American southwest. While in Taos, New Mexico, Lawrence wrote the novel *The Plumed Serpent* (1926). In 1925, Lawrence again became ill, and a bronchial hemorrhage led to a diagnosis of tuberculosis. His last novel, *Lady Chatterly's Lover*, was privately published in 1928; only after lawsuits in America (1959) and England (1960), however, was it freely available.

"The Rocking-Horse Winner" begins like a typical fable, lacking only the "Once upon a time" opening, but the story deals with serious psychological and sociological issues-family relationship, materialism, the nature of love. These motifs appear often in Lawrence's works.¹

B. Masterpiece of DH Lawrence

1. *The White Peacock* & *The Trespasser*²
2. *Sons and Lovers*³

¹Jane Bachman Gordon and Karen Kuehner, *Fiction: The Elements of the Short Story*, (Illinois: National Textbook Company), p.224

²A novel which the story based on the experiences of a fellow teacher who had an affair with a married man who then committed suicide.

3. *The Rainbow*⁴ & *Women in Love*⁵
4. *Lady Chatterley's Lover*⁶

C. *The Rocking-Horse Winner* Short Story

The Rocking-Horse Winner first published in 1926 by Lawrence is considered to be an example of modernist prose. It is his hatred towards growing consumerism, crass materialism and affection-less parenting style of English people. It presents the ironic tone to moralize on the value of love and dangers of money by using the devices of fairy tale and symbolism.

1. The summary of the short story

The *Rocking Horse Winner* by D.H Lawrence is a short story about a mother who regret marrying for love

³Lawrence's third novel. It is a highly autobiographical story of a young man and aspiring artist named Paul Morel, who struggles to transcend his upbringing in a poor mining town.

⁴In 1915 Lawrence published another novel, *The Rainbow*, which was quite sexually explicit for the time. Critics harshly condemned *The Rainbow* for its sexual content, and the book was soon banned for obscenity.

⁵In 1920, Lawrence revised and published *Women in Love*, which he considered the second half of *The Rainbow*. He also edited a series of short stories that he had written during the war, which were published under the title *My England and Other Stories* in 1922.

⁶Lawrence's best-known and most infamous novel. Published in Italy in 1928, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* explores in graphic detail the sexual relationship between an aristocratic lady and a working-class man. Due to its graphic content, the book was banned in the United States until 1959, and in England until 1960, when a jury found Penguin Books not guilty of violating Britain's Obscene Publications Act and allowed the company to publish the book.

instead of money. Her oldest child Paul senses her misery and with the help of his uncle and the gardener Bassett, places and wins bets on the horses. His secret is his wooden rocking horse, which has the power to tell him the winner of each race.

This story is about a beautiful woman who marries for love, but soon finds their relationship disintegrating. Children only make matters worse. She showers them from attention and from an outsider's point of view, it looks like she loves them very much. However, she and the children know it is only a pretense.

As a young woman, the mother was used to living in luxury and she still tries to give people the impression that she and her husband are rich. She buys the children all the best toys and hires a nanny to look after them and servants to maintain the house. Unfortunately, her spending has put the family deeply in debt. At night, the children can hear the house murmur about how much it needs money.

One of the toys in the nursery is an old rocking horse. Paul, the oldest child, loves the horse and rides it so violently and so intensely, that he scares his older sisters.

One day Paul asks his mother why they don't own a car. She tells him that it is because they don't have money and wants to leave it there, but she has piqued Paul's interest. He asks her why and she says it is because his father has no luck.

Paul, detecting her sadness, tells her that he has lots of luck. God, he says, gave it to him.

Paul is riding his wooden rocking horse with typical fervor when his uncle Oscar and Paul's mother enter the nursery. Oscar is impressed. He loves horse racing and sees his nephew shares his passion. More impressive however is Paul's knowledge. Questioning him further, Oscar finds out he talks about racing with the gardener Bassett. Oscar visits Bassett to find out more, but Bassett politely refuses to enlighten him. He tells him that Paul has an unusual gift when it comes to horses, but telling him more would let down the child.

Oscar invites Paul to the Lincoln races. Against his Uncle's advice, Paul bets on a horse called Daffodil and to his uncle's surprise, the horse, a rank outsider, comes in first. It is not the last time he is surprised that day. After the race he finds out Paul has not only guessed winners before, but in partnership with Bassett, has won about 1500 pounds. Upon further investigation, he finds out Paul won the money for his mother.

On Paul's wishes, his uncle gives the family lawyer 5,000 pounds of Paul's winnings with the request that the lawyer sends Paul's mother 1000 pounds every year on her birthday.

If Paul was expecting his mother to be ecstatic, when she receives the money, he is sorely disappointed. As soon as

she reads the note that she will receive 1000 pounds for her birthday for the next five years, she goes straight to the lawyer to ask him to release the whole 5000 immediately.

Over the next few months, the money changes Paul's life. His mother pays a private teacher to teach him and arranges for him to go to Eton the following year. For the house, she buys new furniture and luxuries such as flowers in the winter. Yet still Paul can hear the house murmuring. "We need more money," it says. "We need more money."

With the Derby race approaching, Paul becomes ill with worry since he is still uncertain of the winner. To be certain he has to ride on his rocking horse until the winner comes into his mind, but that is not as easy as it sounds and as of yet nothing has happened. Paul's mother, worried for his health, suggests he visits the seaside. Paul refuses. He tells her he is not going anywhere until after the Derby.

One night, Paul's mother goes out to a dinner party. She tries to enjoy herself, but she can't help worrying about her son. Something is wrong with him. She phones their nanny to inquire, but the nanny is adamant that he is fine.

That calms her down until she arrives home. Going up to Paul room, she hears him, riding passionately on his rocking horse. When she enters, he begins to scream "Malabar, Malabar!" before falling to the floor unconscious.

Paul lays in his room unconscious for days. His mother is worried sick. Eventually she calls in Bassett to see if his presence will have an effect. It does so immediately. As soon as Bassett tells Paul that Malabar won the Derby, Paul wakes up in delight. Turning to his mother, he tells he told he was lucky since he has won her 80,000 pounds. That same night, Paul dies in his sleep.⁷

2. Setting

The setting is the context in which the story takes place, which includes the time, the place, and the social environment. Here, there are three settings of this story such as:

a. Setting of time

We found setting of time based on the story as follow:

1) At morning:

“She was down to breakfast on the morning of her birthday. Paul watched her face as she read her letters’ He knew the lawyer's letter. As his mother read it, her face hardened and became more expressionless. Then a cold, determined look came on her mouth. She hid the letter under the pile of others, and said not a word about it.”

⁷<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-the-rockinghorse-winner/#gsc.tab=0> downloaded on 23 february, 2017 at 10:20 am.

2) At afternoon:

“But in the afternoon Uncle Oscar appeared. He said Paul's mother had had a long interview with the lawyer, asking if the whole five thousand could not be advanced at once, as she was in debt.”

3) At evening:

“In the evening Oscar Cresswell did not come, but Bassett sent a message, saying could he come up for one moment, just one moment? Paul's mother was very angry at the intrusion, but on second thoughts she agreed. The boy was the same. Perhaps Bassett might bring him to consciousness.”

4) At night:

“But the boy died in the night.”

5) At one o'clock

“It was about one o'clock when Paul's mother and father drove up to their house. All was still. Paul's mother went to her room and slipped off her white fur cloak. She had told her maid not to wait up for her. She heard her husband downstairs, mixing a whisky and soda. ”The quote above represent that story happened in the midnight.

b. Setting of condition (mood and atmosphere)

1) Personification

“And so the house came to be haunted by the unspoken phrase: There must be more money! There must be more money!”

2) The feeling of anxious

"You'd better go to the seaside. Wouldn't you like to go now to the seaside, instead of waiting? I think you'd better," she said, looking down at him anxiously, her heart curiously heavy because of him.

3) The feeling of angry

“Paul's mother was very angry at the intrusion, but on second thoughts she agreed. The boy was the same. Perhaps Bassett might bring him to consciousness.”

4) The feeling of happy

"Master Paul!" he whispered. "Master Paul! Malabar came in first all right, a clean win. I did as you told me. You've made over seventy thousand pounds, you have; you've got over eighty thousand. Malabar came in all right, Master Paul."

5) The feeling of sad

"Very unlucky, I should say," she said bitterly.

“But the boy died in the night.”

6) Confident

"Well, anyhow," he said stoutly, "I'm a lucky person."

c. Setting of place

The action takes place in England in the years just after the First World War. The places include a home in an unidentified locale in or near London; London's Richmond Park; a car traveling to a home in Hampshire County, southwest of London; and Lincoln Racecourse in Lincoln, Lincolnshire. The narrator mentions major races in England well known to readers of the story when it first appeared in 1926. These races included the Grand National Handicap Steeplechase at the Aintree Racecourse in Liverpool; the Royal Ascot at Windsor, west of London; the Epsom Derby at Epsom Downs in Surrey, southeast of London; the St. Leger Stakes at Doncaster in South Yorkshire; and the Lincoln, at Lincoln Racecourse in Lincoln, Lincolnshire.⁸

D. Character and characterization

1. Character

- a. Paul: Boy who knows that his mother does not love him or his sisters even though she outwardly shows affection and treats her children kindly. After Paul receives a rocking horse one Christmas, he rides it often and develops a strange intuitive power that enables him to

⁸<http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides5/RockingHorse.html>
downloaded on 23 February, 2017 at 9:56 a.m

correctly predict the winners of horses races. At racetracks, he wins thousands of pounds that he sets aside to defray his mother's debts.

- b. Hester: Paul's mother. She becomes dissatisfied with her marriage after her husband fails to make enough money to support the elegant lifestyle that has put the family deep in debt.
- c. Paul's Father: Man who works in town and has promising prospects that never seem to materialize because, as his wife says, he is unlucky.
- d. Bassett: The family gardener. He initiates Paul into the world of horse racing, and they becoming betting partners.
- e. Oscar Creswell: Paul's uncle and his mother's sister. He provides Paul the money that the boy uses to make his first successful bet.
- f. Miss Wilmot: The family nurse.
- g. Paul's Siblings: Two younger sisters, one named Joan and the other unidentified by name.⁹

⁹<http://www.cummingsstudyguides.net/Guides5/RockingHorse.html>
accessed on December 31, 2016 at 17.00 p.m

2. Characterization

No.	Name	Character and Characterization	Proof
1.	Paul	innocent	Said the boy Paul one day, “ why don’t we keep a car of our own? Why do we always use uncle’s, or else a taxi?” “Don’t they? Nobody at all? Does nobody know?”
		sensitive	The child looked at her to see if she meant it. But he saw, by the lines of her mouth, that she was only trying to hide something from him.
		intelligent	“I thought when uncle Oscar said filthy lucker, it meant money”.
2.	Hester- The Mother	a cold, unfeeling, grasping(greedy), materialistic woman disguised in the cover of a loving mother and wife	She married for love, and the love turned to dust. She had bonny children, yet she felt they had been thrust upon her, and she could not love them. They looked at her coldly, as if they were finding fault with her. And hurriedly she felt she must cover up some fault in herself. And in her manner she was all the more gentle and anxious for her children, as if she loved them very much.
3.	Oscar Cresswell -Uncle	an unscrupulous man who takes advantage of his	“All right, son! We’ll manage it without her knowing.”

No.	Name	Character and Characterization	Proof
		nephew's supernatural talents to his own advantage, without considering for a moment the pressures such activity may place upon the young boy	They managed it very easily. Paul, at the other's suggestion, handed five thousand pounds to his uncle.....”
4.	Basset-The Gardener	Loyal	“Master Paul comes and asks me, so I can't do more than tell him, sir”, said Basset
		loyal, a little bit afraid of his superiors	“Well- I don't want to give him away- he's a young sport, a fine sport, sir. Would you mind asking him himself? He sort of takes a pleasure in it, and perhaps he'd feel I was giving him away, sir, if you don't mind. Basset was serious as a church.
5.	Paul's Father	more or less a non-entity/never-do-well.	And the father had a small income, but not nearly enough for the the social position which they had to keep up. The father went into town to some office. But though he had good prospects, these prospects never materialized.

