

Feng Chia University *Outstanding Academic Paper by Students*

Is Love the Way to Have Home?

有愛就能成家嗎?

Author(s): Po-Hsien Yang(楊柏賢)

Class: 3th year of Department of Foreign Languages and Literature

Student ID: D0411037

Course: English Writing (5) 英文作文(五)

Instructor: Dr. Di-Feng Chueh(闕帝丰)

Department: Foreign Languages and Literature(外國語文學系)

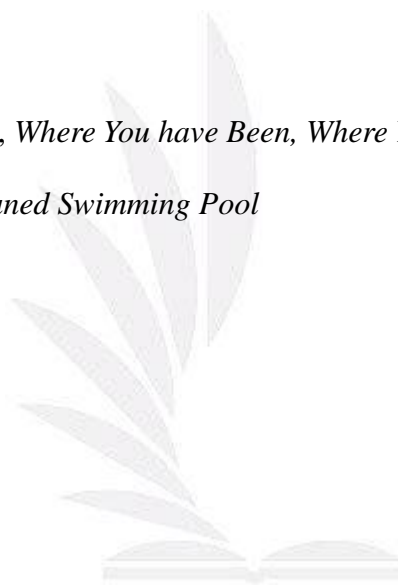
Academic Year: Semester 1, 2017-2018



Abstract

This article aims to compare the three stories: Mark Steven Hess's *Where You have Been*, *Where You are Going*, Ernest Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants*, and John Updike's *The Orphaned Swimming Pool*. This article respectively discusses the theme of love and its relation to the construction of home in the three stories and focuses on how the distinctive dealing ways of solving problems affect what kind of home each character has at the end of the story. This article includes five paragraphs. The first paragraph briefly introduces the aim of the article. From the second to the fourth paragraph, I demonstrate what problems the characters face, how the characters deal with these problems, and what kind of home they have at the end of the story. Finally, the report considers that characters love for the home makes them strong enough to deal their problems, no matter how different the results are in comparison to their expectation.

Keyword : Love, Home, *Where You have Been*, *Where You are Going*, *Hills Like White Elephants*, *The Orphaned Swimming Pool*



摘要

本文旨在比較三個故事：《何去何從》（*Where You have Been, Where You are Going*, 1988）、《白象似的群山》（*Hills Like White Elephants*, 1927）、《孤池》（*The Orphaned Swimming Pool*, 1970）中，對於愛與家的意象。透過這樣子比較，我們可以看出「愛」不僅是建構一個家非常重要的要素，它還促使人們解決困難、幫助人們建構夢寐以求的家，但「愛」卻不是「成家」的保證，「愛」有時反而會使家破滅，或是使人們在情感中傷的更重。本文共分成五個段落，第一段簡述愛與家，這兩個意象在這三篇文章中的關係；第二段到第四段，則依序論述三個故事的內容，以及角色們如何處理對於家的愛，並剖析經由這樣子的解決方式，會如何影響角色們最後所擁有的家；最後一段則是總結，比較三篇故事之間的關聯性。由此可知，「愛」是種非常奇特的元素，它會使人強大，讓人們極力去守護與捍衛自己珍惜的事物，即便結果可能不如預期。

關鍵詞：愛、家、成家、《白象似的群山》、《孤池》、《何去何從》



Table of Content

1. Abstract	p. 1
2. 中文摘要	p. 2
3. Is Love the Way to Have Home?	p. 4-7
4. Reference	p. 8



Is Love the Way to Have Home?

Love makes people strong enough to deal with problems. In Mark Steven Hess's *Where You have Been, Where You are Going*, Ernest Hemingway's *Hills Like White Elephants*, and John Updike's *The Orphaned Swimming Pool*, the three main characters all encounter a difficulty in their lives. They don't escape but try to deal with the difficulty because of their love for their home. This article respectively discusses the theme of love and its relation to the construction of home in the three stories and focuses on how the distinctive dealing ways of solving problems affect what kind of home each character has at the end of the story.

In *Where You have Been, Where You are Going*, the narrator loses his father and feels lonely. For example, during his trip to find the homestead, he mentions, "I am certain that Dad must have been relieved, even satisfied that day with all my running and yelling as we approached the homestead. I am certain because I know what it is like to lose your father. I am certain because I want someone to fill this place with laughter. If I could have any wish right now, it would be that I could fill this place myself" (line132-137, p.171). Moreover, readers could surmise why the narrator wants to find the homestead through what he says in the story. For instance, during the trip, the narrator says, "I continue north now, keeping to the right tire rut—the same rut Dad and I followed to the old homestead I have only seen once before" (line 34-36,

Is Love the Way to Have Home?

p168). Besides, he recalls, “Dad says he wants [...] We are going to see where my grandfather grew up, a place where there were real cowboys and real Indians” (line 51-63, p.169). These words indicate the reasons that the homestead helps him reconnect with his father. What’s more, the finding process also makes he find a sense of belongingness because he and his father had this trip once after his grandfather’s death. From these examples, it is clear that the narrator’s love for his father causes him to find the home in his memory.

The theme of love and home also appears in Ernest Hemingway’s *Hills Like White Elephants*. Jig faces a difficulty to decide whether she should have the abortion or not, an operation which is indirectly mentioned by the American, Jig’s boyfriend. For example, in the conversation between the American man and Jig, the American continues to says, “It’s really an awfully simple operation, Jig, [...] I know you wouldn’t mind it, Jig. It’s really not anything. It’s just to let the air in” (line 65-69, p.6). When the American man continues to persuade Jig to have an abortion, Jig tries her best to protect their baby and doesn’t want to have an operation. She replies to the American, “No, we can’t. It isn’t ours any more. [...] And once they take it away, you never get it back” (line 121-124, p.8). Furthermore, at the end of their conversation, she even intends to yell at the American for keeping their baby because she says, “I’ll scream” (line 156, p.8) when the American man persists talking about an abortion. At

Is Love the Way to Have Home?

the end of the story, even though Jig answers, “There’s nothing wrong with me. I feel fine” (line 174-175, p. 9) while the American man asks her, “Do you feel better?” (line 174, p. 9), Jig still feels sorrowful because Jig shows her intense love to the American man and their baby during their conversation in order to have a lovely home in the future. However, the conversation also shows that Jig’s home is possibly to be an abortive home rather than a lovely home.

Compared to the two stories mentioned above, John Updike’s *The Orphaned Swimming Pool* has a more pitiful character, Linda. Ted, Linda’s husband, cheats on his wife. A homewrecker intrudes their marriage because in the story, the narrator mentions, “Ted and an unknown woman, of the same physical type as Linda [...]; Ted was fearful of the legal consequences of their being seen by anyone who might write and tell Linda” (line 125-132, p. 86). Realizing that Ted is two-timing her, Linda doesn’t quarrel with her husband fiercely but chooses to leave their home temporarily. For example, the narrator utters, “Then the day after school was out, Linda fled with the children to her parents in Ohio” (line 46-47, p. 84).

Quitting home doesn’t mean that Linda doesn’t love their home. On the contrary, leaving home shows that Linda still loves their home but she doesn’t know what the best way is to deal with Ted’s affair. Therefore, she chooses to leave and to let time change this depressing situation. However, readers know that time doesn’t help. At the

Is Love the Way to Have Home?

end of the story, the narrator declares, “Linda at least returned. From Minneapolis she had gone to Idaho for six weeks, to be divorced” (line 149-150, p. 86). From here, readers realize that the couple gets divorced in the end and Linda is seriously hurt in her mind. As the narrator says, “[...], but Linda saw that the pool in truth had no bottom, it held bottomless loss, it was one huge blue tear” (line 163-164, p. 87). Moreover, their house is sold in the end. The information points out that Linda’s love for their home doesn’t help her solve the problem but makes her hurt seriously. What’s worse, their home is broken eventually.

Love and home are common themes in Mark Steven Hess’s *Where You have Been*, *Where You are Going*, Ernest Hemingway’s *Hills Like White Elephants*, and John Updike’s *The Orphaned Swimming Pool*. Through the three stories, it is proved that a character’s love for the home makes him or her strong enough to deal his or her problems, no matter how different the results are in comparison to his or her expectation.

References

- Hemingway, Ernest. "Hills Like White Elephants." Ed. Jean A. McConochie. *20th American Short Stories Vol 2*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1995, 1-14.
- Hess, Mark Steven. "Where You Have Been, Where You Are Going." Ed. Jean A. McConochie. *20th American Short Stories Vol 2*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1995, 163-178.
- Updike, John. "The Orphaned Swimming Pool." Ed. Jean A. McConochie. *20th American Short Stories Vol 2*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1995, 79-90.

