

The use of Economic divide in literature and film

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Intro

Throughout history we've always dealt with economic divide. The poor and the rich. A narrative that revolves around the idea of economic divide can be told in many different ways. In Katherine Mansfield's short story *Garden Party* we see a young women deal with the guilt of having her garden party while the death of her poor neighbor is still recent. And In Bong Joon Ho's oscar winning film *Parasite* having an wealthy family infiltrate a wealthy family and work for them. With these two examples I want reveal how these two stories that were written almost 100 years ago still have themes and relations that are still relevant to our world today

Katherine Mansfield

Garden Party

Katherine Mansfield's novel is set in 1922 and revolves around the Sheridan family and they are preparing for their garden party. The main story's protagonist is named Laura. Laura finds out that one of their lower-classed neighbors has recently passed away and she insists that the family garden party should be cancelled. She says "But we can't possibly have a garden-party with a man dead just outside the front gate." (Mansfield). Laura realizes how inappropriate and poorly timed the garden party is when the neighbors have to hear the party while mourning the loss of their father.

Katherine Mansfield

Garden Party cont.

One of the themes in this short story is the social class and economic divide between the two families. Once the garden party is over Mrs. Sheridan (Laura's mother) tells Laura that she should deliver the scraps of the party to the neighbors. Mansfield shows in the story that those in high society think the poor are less worthy. They don't deserve to have the luxury of having fresh food but to have the scraps.

Bong Joon Ho

Parasite

The film by Bong Joon Ho follows the non-wealthy family the Kim's as they slowly start working for the wealthy Park family as they use fake identities to hide the idea that they are a family. The Kims use anything to help their family become financially stable as they feed off the Park's wealth. The economic divide that occurs throughout the film is relevant to this day. One of the major scenes in the film involves a terrible rain storm. For the Park's it's an inconvenience that the rain storm happens because it rained out there camping, but for the Kim's it means losing everything including their home and all of their belongings.

Bong Joon Ho

Parasite cont

Throughout the film we see the Kim family feeding off of the wealth of the Park family, hence the title of the film Parasite. But, we also see how the Park's feed of the work of the Kim's to make their life simpler and easier. The film is filled with Parasites because both families feed off of each others attributes. The film circles around the idea of social injustice and class inequalities

How both stories relate

Katherine Mansfield's short story the *Garden Party* and Bong Joon Ho's film *Parasite* both tackle the social inequalities and how we view others who don't fall into our social class. Both stories have wealthy families that view un wealthy as servants and or undeserving of their wealth. Both stories have very relevant topics that will be relevant as years to come. Economic divide is a serious topic that will ever be solved. Stories that tell tales of economic divide bring people to light on this topic. Stories that deal with economic differences have been apart of our culture for as long as we can remember. Having Bong Joon Ho's film won the best picture category and Katherine Mansfield's novel standing the test of time for over almost 100 years tells a lot about the culture we live in today. These stories hold very powerful and timeless themes and the world we live in needs to learn more about the subject of economic inequality.