

**A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL ASPECT IN LIGHT IN  
AUGUST**

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**ABSTRACT**

Light in august, a book by William Faulkner published in 1932, revolves around the southern part of America. The main purpose for conducting the research paper is, with the ongoing life, the topics like social wrong or exclusion from the society is not a regularly touched subject, people have been ignoring this because of the presupposed custom beliefs but being humans it remains our moral duty to help each and everyone around us for coping up with regular lives when being affected by these aspects, we would be understanding how this social belief affect individuals lives Mr. William Faulkner infused this story with prospects like religion, caste, class. in a very clear manner, Faulkner conveyed that no one version or approach to understanding a person is a reliable source to get an accurate result or impression of action or motivation. Getting a result is impossible like this, instead, various conflicting opinions and perspectives allow us to get multifaceted results that constitute the truth. . Through our research paper, we shall be analyzing every character and at the same time we shall also be answering questions like how religion played an important role in the novel, understand the significance of the title, and at the same time also understand the thematic significance. Our research would be doctrinal in nature as we would be going across various published papers regarding the social aspects as enlightened in the novel. We shall provide a review of literature understanding what are the views of people, and come to the conclusion

where we shall answer the questions raised above and conclude our research paper by highlighting how the ill social thoughts had affected the lives of all individuals.

## KEYWORDS

- INDIVIDUAL ISOLATION
- RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS
- COHERENT SENSE OF IDENTITY
- RACISM

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Light in august was written by an American novelist named MR. William Faulkner, it was his seventh book in which he directly poked about racial discrimination, the structure as a whole has various distinct stories and whose thematic relationship is difficult to understand, though after understanding the style in which the author writes it is easy to read.

Mr. William Faulker was also awarded the Nobel prize for literature in the year 1949.

### 2. ABOUT THE NOVEL

The novel is based on themes that explain how one's life could be governed by factors like race, color, and class, the plot is based in southern America which is also accustomed to such beliefs thus giving a real idea of what happens. With deep analysis, it is found that conflict is not between racism and protestant but between the soul of the body and mind. The most important thing of the novel is the way Mr. William Faulkner narrated the incident of pain and darkness all through the book consistently and thus held us with the book throughout, portraying the outcasts and the misfits in the prejudiced society. Throughout the novel we

observe instances wherein society has affected the lives of characters, picturing them as some immoral human beings. It tempts us to ask, do with such racial discrimination and odd beliefs can one live with society? further, we shall take into consideration the factors affecting the character's life with stereotypical nature and how one should cope with such things before these factors get the best of them and end their life while still living physically in the world. This book in a way tends to attract a mass part of the reading population due to the style in which Mr. William Faulkner writes the things, the italicized texts and non-traditional way of punctuations add peculiarities to it. In particular, the regionalism, colloquialism, and the way of speech plunges us abruptly with the world that he has created. This book has a lot of themes that have been put together in synchronization, the main idea around which the story revolves is the social aspects, like individuals' isolation from the world, the burden that individuals carry due to their rough past. . The story has started with an ongoing journey, and the rural slang thus reveals a lot about the background, this shows that Faulkner just did not approach solely with portraying the community but also applies as much of it to the character

### **3. THE SOCIAL ASPECT OF THE NOVEL**

It has always been seen that places with black and white colonies have always had conflicting thoughts, pretty evident from places like America, where violence erupts just for the sake of different skin color, the author strikes out the factors like race, color, and class throughout the novel and leaves it upon the reader to analyze the gravity of the situation. The main question is, the law asks for the procedure to be followed for everyone to be equal but does only the color make the one delivering justice blind, for instance, research has said that black prisoners live in prison for a longer period than the white prisoner, we must understand how the discrimination actually affect people life. As mentioned above we have been observing instances in the novel where because of the deeds of the close ones the characters have been

characterized as morally wrong by the society, we shall come across how this affected the lives of the characters and what changes or impact would have been there if there wasn't much of such ill ideology in the society.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Our research is based on the book, *Light in August* by Mr. William Faulkner. To analyze the work different tools have been used to highlight the aspects that the author has enlightened us within the story. Qualitative research is the most important tool used for the aforesaid topic. It is a method of non-numerical analysis. It has been essentially used to analyze the story and gather the data to understand the experiences of different individuals as well as to interpret the concepts as used in the book. The other tool which is incorporated is Literature Research Methodology, this tool is exclusively used for literary works, primarily to process the data archived with different perspectives. The last tool used is content analysis, it involves collecting data from different books, interview, speeches

The data collected pertaining to our topic has been collected from primary and secondary sources. The Primary source used is the book itself, there are references which has been taken from the book. The Secondary sources used are book reviews, newspaper reports, articles. These are primarily used to increase efficiency and increase the credibility of the work.

The research currently deals with social aspects, present in the novel. It is a very complex novel thus, the researcher has reviewed many literary works, to understand different perspectives and come to a conclusion, primarily emphasizing on isolation, coherent identity of the individual, religious symbols, and racism.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

## 1. Conservative Racist Ideology and the Post Reconstruction South

By: Caitlin Hofert

The writer uses the protagonist Joe Christmas, to uncover that society's good and social qualities. His estrangement from white society, the impact of the racial oppressor religious philosophy on the individuals with whom he cooperates. The author likewise tries to show how religion can be abused, getting just an instrument of prejudices.

## 2. Gender, Race, and Language in Light in August

By: Deborah Clarke

The paper traces the way that women are constructed then deconstructed, the type of Light in August with its twofold plot lines and absence of conclusion, reflects the uncomfortable connections between the genders and between the races. It revealed Faulkner's anxieties about gender and art and the ways they interrelate.

## 3. The Effect of Joanna Burden's Masculinity on the Jefferson Community

By : Jonathan Davies

The paper points out how In Light in August, the individuals of Jefferson are introduced as a solitary adversary in which they exclusively exist to contradict any undesirable change inside the network. Due to the resident's need to maintain its conventional Southern qualities.

## 4. "Light In August": A Psychological View

By : Raymond E. Bernberg

In this paper, the racial problem inherent in the story has unquestionably been pointed out and handled in far superior and simpler ways. The content in general is not what could be considered "intoxicating." It provides the closure of the audience-artist relationship for

optimal communication. Since this was such an early work of Faulkner's, the criticisms are too severe to apply to his total work, but in relation to this specific work, they were justified.

## 5. Focusing on the Margins: "Light in August" and Social Change

By :Abdul-Razzak Al-Barhow

The paper inspects social change on an etymological level as a move in the semantic load of classifications and pairs toward a performative perspective on race, as opposed to the natural idea that the network's "voices" are frantically attempting to keep up. Social change is analyzed further in the general structure of the paper in the manner the three characters of Lena Grove, Joe Christmas, and Gail Hightower.

## 6. Polarity and Paradox: Faulkner's "Light in August"

By : Jeff H. Campbell

The paper conveys that, The polarity of Light in August, then, is easily demonstrable and almost universally accepted. A more difficult question arises, however, when we ask about this polarity's meaning and effect. The author believes that Faulkner has successfully unified his polarities by using a technique infrequently resorted to by a philosopher.

## 7. "An Older Light Than Ours": Faulkner's Reflections on Race and Racism in Light in

August.

WORDS SPEAK

By: Frank Cyba

This paper Analyses William Faulkner's appearance on race and bigotry in *Light in August*, by zeroing in on the essential job that cognizance and brain science play in the novel for the development of characters and their perspective on the real world and of themselves. To help this contention, the examination centers around three distinct viewpoints: First, the story methodology of substituting abstract points of view that investigates the agreement building elements, which condition discernment and cognizance as much as they create bias and bigotry. Second, the network's origination of race as an existential state of impossible ontological distinction has all the earmarks of being personally married to basic ideas of sexual orientation. This origination is radicalized through a Protestant soul of blame and discipline as existential goals. At last, the paper investigates Joe Christmas as a crazy character by looking at the cycle of his story development and dissecting the degree to which his questionable racial personality and existential situation are introduced as the aftereffect of bigoted talk and not of "inconsistencies of blood."

8. The individual and the problem of self-definition in Faulkner : isolation and gesture in *Light in August*, *The sound and the fury*, *Absalom, Absalom!*, and *As I lay dying*-

By : Betty Jean Seymour

The reason for the paper was two-crease: first, to analyze Faulkner's view concerning the issue of the distance of the individual and the components behind that offense, and, second, to propose the signal" as Faulkner's endeavor to defeat the division and accordingly to accomplish a self-appreciation definition

9. Dark house Jennifer

By : Baldwin



This paper examines perhaps the most gnawing studies of strict and social narrow mindedness in mid 20th century society. It makes reference to how Faulkner uses the narrative town of Jefferson to go facing the presence of bias, sexuality, sex, and exacting detachment in his endemic state, Mississippi. The paper revolves around the unforgiving social rules that Faulkner feels are supported by severe foundations, particularly in isolated nation locales.

## 10. Race and Gender in Light in August

By: Clarke D.

This essay analyzed how Faulkner treats race and sex in *Light in August*, a more profound analysis focused on American culture of the 1920s and earlier. A gender for the purpose of the research was taken, Joe Christmas being a particularly malicious man.

## ANALYSIS

### ISOLATION

Separation Common to a significant number of Faulkner's books is the topic of human segregation. In *Light in August* this double subject—the isolation and the driving of life into a pre-established design—is given extra profundity by the exacting, actual confinement of the fundamental characters from the network. *Light in August* is loaded up with recluses, confined figures who pick or are compelled to occupy the edges of society. Byron shields himself from the rest of the world with his oblivious procedure of separation. Lena is a surrendered mother-to-be who, in looking for the help of Joe Brown, discovers she can remain solitary and is in an ideal situation for it. She is the impetus that encourages Byron's



conclusive and postponed entrance into the universe of human collaboration and contact. Even though their dubious and nontraditional family is as yet framing in the novel's last section, they are the lone characters who can settle the conundrum of their own offense and depression.

## **COHERENT SENSE OF IDENTITY**

The fact that the novel investigates issues of sex and race explicitly, these specific topical flows converge to turn out to be important for Faulkner's book, concerning the idea of character and how it is affected by history, nature, society, and individual lives. The inhabitants of Jefferson have settled an implicit acknowledgment of Reverend Hightower, Joanna Burden, and Joe Christmas, however, every one of these characters purposely opposes or surrenders the misshaping impact of an unbending social and good request. Society, as typified in Faulkner's aggregate voice of the network, endeavors to superimpose shortsighted, prohibitive ideas of personality dependent on general classes, for example, race and sex. Though a few people need these outer prompts to give themselves a feeling of clearness, request, and definition, others battle under the heaviness of what are frequently meddling endeavors to limit and arrange. For Joe Christmas, the absence of a steady and recognizable ability to be self aware accepts terrible measurements. His wanderings become a representative excursion to discover what his identity is, a quest for completeness and self-culmination, yet they are grievously and at last an illusive and slippery journey.

## **RACISM**

The worry with racial character is one of Light in August's focal subjects. At the point when individuals feel that Joe Christmas has even a hint of dark heritage, they treat him totally uniquely in contrast to the manner in which they treat white individuals. Large numbers of

the characters in *Light in August* appear to be turned by their distraction with race. Joanna Burden, Joe Christmas, Doc Hines. Yet, even a significant number of the characters who don't share this madness expect that treating blacks brutally is adequate. The Jefferson sheriff, Watt Kennedy, appears to be a respectable man, yet he whips an arbitrarily picked dark in a cross examination that was pointless in any case.

## RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

William Faulkner's, *"Light in August"* has numerous references to Christianity. He utilizes a lot of strict imagery in the entirety of his characters. These equals appear to be exceptionally deliberate, despite the fact that, Faulkner himself says he didn't do it intentionally. The Christ story is quite possibly the most well known stories designed and it appears to be correct that eventually somebody will compose like it. William Faulkner says he didn't place the Christian equals in purposefully. Numerous pundits contend that there is no strict imagery in this novel and that different pundits are looking excessively profound into the novel. Subsequent to perusing Faulkner's epic, it is hard not to make a few associations with Christianity. The most evident of his connections to the Catholic foundation and information is in his composition of *"Light in August"*.

## CONCLUSION

In the content, Faulkner utilizes the network to intervene in the polarities that exist in both the characters and in the general public on the loose. The residents of Jefferson thoughtlessly propagate the arrangement of order and classification that has separated the town for quite a long time. Through this, it exhibits that the foolish frameworks of conduct that are related to the tradition of a community can achieve its ethical ruin in the event that they are applied without human mediation and welfare for others.

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