

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF HOWELLS'S THE RISE OF SILAS LAPHAM

In Boston there is a man named Silas Lapham whose job is as a business man. As a man Silas Lapham is a successful businessman who has made millions profit in the paint business. As a businessman, he always seeks something that can make a great profit for his business and his life.

Because he is an immigrant from New England, he wants to raise his social status so that he can be recognized by a lot of people in Boston so that a lot of people may respect him as an honorable person.

He makes a lot of cunning efforts to make his social status accepted by the people of Boston by making a lot of money with his paint business. However, due to a greedy, unscrupulous habit and lack of morality because he has been corrupted by money, he starts to lose his business and his lover. All this time he has made a mistake and he realizes that mistake and in the middle of the story he decides that he does not want to repeat it again. So he makes a major change in his life, especially in his characteristics.

In his humility of what has happened in his life, he begins to think of other people's feeling by what he has done, and also starts to make a spiritual and ethical rise and not a material thing. His moral starts to rise again as time goes

by and he slowly finds his happiness better than the social acceptance, money and being a rich person but the celebration of not being a high-status person.

Silas Lapham finds that true happiness is not in a material thing but in spiritual satisfaction that once he has underestimated, forgotten, and he does not even think about it. At the end of the story, with his new objective in life, he finally shifts his identities and characteristics to become a better person who has a good moral, spiritual rise and an ethical person, which he has never expected before.

BIOGRAPHY

William Dean Howells is born in Martin's Ferry, Ohio, to William Cooper and Mary Dean Howells, the second child and second son of their eight children. He born on the 1st of March in 1837 and died of Pneumonia on 11th of May in 1920 at New York City. He married Elinor Mead on the 24th of December in 1862 in Paris, and his wife died on May 1910. Further more by this marriage has given him three children; Winifred born on the 17th of December in 1863 and died on the 3rd of March 1889, John Mead Howells born on the 14th of August in 1868 and the last is Mildred born on the 26th of September in 1872.

His father was a printer and newspaperman and he learned the printing business in his father's offices at Hamilton and Dayton, Ohio. His family moved from town to town. Howells went to a common school where he could. As a boy he learned the skill of printing and by the time he was in his teens he was setting type for his own verse.

He became a legislative correspondent of the Cincinnati Gazette from Columbus and between 1856 until 1861 he worked as a reporter of the *Ohio State Journal*. Howells at first envisioned a career as a poet. In fact, his rise to literary achievement began when one of his earlier poems was sent to and accepted by the editor in chief of *The Atlantic*.

In 1871 he became the editor in chief of the magazine; in this position he worked with many young writers, among them were Mark Twain and Henry James, both of them became his close friends. He has produced several novels, among them

is his first novel, Their Wedding Journey, which appeared in 1872. The Rise of Silas Lapham was serialized in Century Magazine before it published five years later. In 1886 Howells begins writing the “Editor’s Study” column for *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine*. And its contains some of his best criticism, and several pieces will be collected in *Criticism and Fiction*

Howells’ position as a critic, a writer, and an enthusiastic exponent of the new realism has earned him the respected title of “the dean of American letters.”