

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the black characters in Richard Wright's short stories, Uncle Tom's Children, I find some similarities among the four of them.

Firstly, the four black characters are portrayed as people who all have feelings and emotion. Big Boy in "Big Boy Leave Home" is portrayed as a common carefree and brave boy. Mann in "Down by the Riverside" is described as a caring, responsible and brave man. Silas in "Long Black Song" is a courageous person; and Sue in "Bright and Morning Star" is a smart, caring, loyal and brave woman. All the black characters are caring, loyal, brave, and sometimes feel scared. It is obvious that Richard Wright is skillful in creating lifelike characters.

Secondly, Richard Wright is smart in using not only adult blacks but also a woman and children as the protagonist. And they are all brave in giving reaction towards the whites' unfair treatment. I get the impression that the author wants to put forward the idea that even black woman and children are not submissive, as Carlsen, G. Robert (1973:401) states in American Literature Themes and Writers Second Edition, that 'Wright made it clear that Uncle Tom's children were not submissive.' He wants to change the whites' stereotype of black people.

Furthermore, through what the characters have experienced, Richard Wright wants to show that the blacks have tried hard to survive. However, no matter how hard they try, they always become victims of the whites' discrimination. The whites as superior people think that they can do whatever they want to blacks, but if the blacks react towards the whites' unfair treatment, there will be no mercy for them. Almost all of the protagonists in Richard Wright's short stories I have discussed have to die in the hands of the whites.

Besides similarities, I also find a difference among the four short stories. Richard Wright creates a different ending in "Big Boy Leaves Home" from the other three stories. Big Boy succeeds in running away from the whites who haunt him. Nevertheless, he still has to bear the effect; he feels traumatic and afraid. In my opinion, the author wants to show that although the black boy succeeds in running away, he is not really free. It is only his body which is free, but not his soul. Wherever black people try to run away, they will always feel afraid and traumatic. Black people will not feel free fully because in the end their soul will be dead also if they always live a traumatic life.

Having analysed the black characters in Richard Wright Uncle Tom's Children, I am very much impressed with Mann, the protagonist of "Down by the Riverside". He is a caring person. He is willing to help other people in need although he himself has just lost his beloved wife, who passed away on the way to the hospital. Unfortunately, his good deed cannot make the whites give mercy to him because he is black. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that the blacks are human beings who have to be treated equal because they have the same right as other people.

I also learn that long after the abolishment of slavery in the USA, racial discrimination is still a common practice. I feel pity for the blacks who, due to their skin-colour, have to suffer or even to die when they react towards the whites' unfair treatment.

Richard Wright has brought up this issue very clearly in Uncle Tom's Children, which makes the book worth reading and analysing