

John Osborne: Look Back in Anger

Critical review

Osborne's play *Look back in anger* is an illustration of a relationship between two young people that have different backgrounds and come from different social classes.

The play itself is based on the character Jimmy Porter. He is still very stigmatized by his past, which is shown several times in the play through his character and his conversations. The death of his father, an affair with an older woman and bad friendships are the events that scared his mind in the past. His past combined with his bohemian soul and his relatively high intellect comes together and creates a so-called rebel without a cause. His goal is not to be bored, which he achieves by provoking others. This is his way of living and the people that are unfortunate enough to be in his vicinity tend to get hurt. Alison is a daughter of rich parents that fell in love with Jimmy because he was exciting and her parents disapproved of him. In a way she is as well a rebel without a cause, the only difference was she has no goal in life. The other person that is more or less a bystander is Cliff. He is a student that is just trying to survive and is unlucky enough to be in business together with Jimmy. The last character, Helena, is by my opinion presented merely to show Jimmy's diversity and therefore does not need further analysis.

The play itself by my opinion lacks some action and depth, or at least a decent plot. It is too monotone and requires an over vast knowledge of the English culture and history in order to be comprehended fully. However, it is quite readable and apart from the above-mentioned complaints, I did not regret reading it.