

There are the extracts from three academic writing papers

### **Critical thinking**

Student's name 1

Student ...

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12 October 20\_\_

Emmett Louis Till was a usual African American teenager, lived in Chicago. Maybe, no one would know him, and he would live his life, full of racial oppression and disregards, but the fate made from Emmett Till the crusader for all African Americans. Due to Emmett's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, violent murder became publicly known and encouraged the Africans to continue a struggle, with renewed vigor, to ensure the equal civil rights on the same basis with white Americans. Emmett Louis Till was killed in the poorest American state, Mississippi Delta Region, during his visit to the mother's relative, Mose Wright, on 28<sup>th</sup> of August, in 1955. John Milam and his half-brother Roy Bryant kidnapped Emmett from Wright's residence, beat him severely, shot in the head and threw the body to the Tallahatchie River. Working on the research of the circumstances of Till's homicide, it becomes obvious that we'll never know of the true dialogue, which led to that tragedy. There are some versions of Emmett's flirting with Carolyn Bryant. Till's fellow, Curtis Jones, told that everything started from the photograph, where Emmett was next to a white girl, and whom he called his girlfriend. So, the boys would like to check his skills in communications with girls and bet Emmett Till to talk to the wife's owner of the store. I can suppose that he was unlikely impolite, because he was warned by his mother, before the trip, to be careful with whites in Mississippi. No one of fellows heard his dialogue with Carolyn; he was along with her in the store. Carolyn's testimonies can

behardly believed as she was interested person. Emmett stuttered, so that verbal defect could cause whistling that helped the boy to start talking normally. The whistling could be considered as Emmett's bad manner by people, who were not familiar with that speech problem. Emmett looked older than his own ages. Perhaps, Carolyn Bryant thought that Emmett was adult. It could be a disadvantage for him in the conflict, because young women perceived the inviting for a date by 14-years old boy as an indecent proposal, not as a joke. The color of skin played the main role, because any relations between white woman and black man were condemned and punished violently, especially in South America. The killers were acquitted by all white jury. Bryant and Milam, being protected against double jeopardy, confessed in Till's murder and admitted that no one helped them, in the interview to the Look magazine on 24<sup>th</sup> of January, 1956.

Till's lawsuit was full of the white officials' prejudgment and the murderers' support, for example: whole jury, the Attorney General Herbert Brownell and Sheriff Strider, who was a segregationist and tried to keep Negroes "in their place." The executives and common people sent a lot of hate letters, telegrams, and leaflets, addressed to the U.S. Government and the press with demands of "actions with reference to this shocking act of lawlessness", the federal investigation and a resignation of the Attorney General. The president advisor Maxwell Rabb called Till's mother the "instrument" of the Communists. Rabb didn't care of the brutal Till's murder and the unjust trial; as for the main part of the officials, Emmett Till was "allegedly" killed. That brutal case was caused massive indignations. Steel-workers union head, David McDonald, urged Eisenhower to initiate in the Congress antilynching law to protect the African Americans. The active African-Americans expected the intervention from the President. One of the significant events in the Negro movement for the civil rights was the Montgomery Bus Boycott, in which Martin Luther King participated. The one-year lasted boycott was started on December in 1955 after Rosa Parks' arrest for not getting up out of the bus seat for the white. It was the African

woman's protest in honor to Emmet Till. The Communists expressed their solidarity with Negroes in mass protests to show that U.S. society was fully "infected" with racism and if the Administration wouldn't become loyal to the Negroes, critical point in their temper would be explore in a great social protest that could cause a new Civil War.

The injustice of Till's homicide and the killers' acquittal involved more and more people, concerned of the infringement of Negroes' rights and lack of fairness in judicial system in general. No one would like to live in the country, where citizens' rights were not defended and people's lives "cost a whistle". The President Administration could no longer ignore such resonance case, especially, declaring that the American society was democratic one. The social perturbations, out of control, became dangerous for the government. At least, massive public pressure to the White House brought the positive results: the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965) were taken. Till's case became the precedent for the Department of Justice in the USA to meddle in local law in the matter of enforcement issues, in case of compromised civil rights. The U. S. Justice Department officially reopened Till's case in 2004. The name of Emmett Till will stay in the U.S. history and in the Americans' minds as a reminder of segregation, lynching and violent racism towards the Africans. Emmett's young life was sacrificed violently, but his death wasn't vain.

## Research paper

“Trifles” (1916) by Susan Glaspell is a drama play that shows to the audience two tragic fates of Wright’s family members. The murder of the husband and the spiritual death of the wife illustrate the problem of misunderstanding in family institution. The play is written in a detective manner. Susan Glaspell fills her one-act play with symbolic hints, which reveal the evidences and the motive of the crime. The plot of the play focuses on the protagonist Mrs. Wright’s fate. We learn about Minnie’s life from the recollections of her neighbor, Mrs. Hale, who sincerely regrets not to communicate with Mrs. Wright during last year. She confesses about the reason, why she stays away from Wright’s farm “I don’t think a placed be any cheerfuller for John Wright’s being in it” (Glaspell 11). Mrs. Hale even shivers, telling, how hard to live with such person as John “Just to pass the time of day with him...like a raw wind that gets to the bone” (Glaspell 19). After Minnie’s marriage to John Wright, who is not an easy-going man, doesn’t like friends’ company, and is fond of constant “peace and quiet”, Mrs. Wright becomes fully dependable on the husband’s habits and his way of life. Eventually living by boring lonely life in gloomy house, she turned into unhappy woman, taking care only of her own cheerless world, bogging down in the everyday trifles such as preservation and another housekeeping work. Thirty years ago, Mrs. Wright “used to wear pretty clothes and be lively, when she was Minnie Foster, one of the town girls singing in the choir... she wore a white dress with blue ribbons” (Glaspell 13, 23). Becoming Mr. Wright’s wife, she is cardinally changed. The disheartened is noticed even in Minnie’s clothes. The shabby home dress emphasizes her depressive mood.

I think that the women’s solidarity in the play can be considered as a good luck for Minnie Wright. Mrs. Paterson and Mrs. Hale find the evidences of John Wright’s murder (the bread out of set, knotting quilt, dead canary, wrapped in silk). This fact one more time emphasizes that women are more attentive, than serious men, to the trifles that can be

transformed into the important details. Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Paterson don't tell the men about discovered clues, which influence to the outcome of the play plot. The women try to change the fate of Mrs. Wright, because they decide that in her action has existed justice and desire to take revenge for her unhappy life and the death of the canary.

If I was able to re-write the plot of "Trifles", I would add the bravery in Minnie's life and desire to escape her fate. I think a lot of conflicts can be solved by friendly conversation. Wise woman should find appropriate clue to her man. Working on the research paper, I've come to the conclusion that in such tragic outcome of the play both Mr. and Mrs. Wright are guilty. Their fates could be different, if they tried to be happy together. If Mrs. Wright insisted on the respect to her, and didn't give up in her position, may be, John would change his consumer attitude to the wife, and both fates would be saved. Otherwise, the divorce could be the easiest way to receive freedom and opportunity to live in own inner world.

To my mind, Susan Glaspell believes in destiny as in sudden turn of everyday life. The author of the play demonstrates that the extraordinary events can be a gift or a punishment of the fate. The bad luck, in the face of John Wright, influences on Minnie's life making her suffer thirty years in the marriage to the moral tyrant. Susan Glaspell tries in ironic way to convince the men not to tempt the fate, because sometimes it can cause the effect of boomerang. In the play "Trifles" the author focuses on the wide-spread society view of the family relations between man and woman. It's commonly accepted that man does important things and woman engages in trifles; man is a master of his fate and woman should follow her husband, but sometimes desperate woman can influence on her husband's fate unexpectedly for him.

## Historical essay

Historical experience is the most valuable heritage that mankind can ever have. Only wise nations learn from the mistakes of the Past. The United States of America is a multinational country, but not every nation became happy in the New World at once. There are Native Americans (Indians), Europeans, Africans, Latinas and Asians roots at the Americas territory. The first Europeans came to the New World as conquerors and occupants. The Spaniards and Anglo-Saxons brought their experience of the colonial society to the America. As a result, the American society “was infected” by genocide and violent racism towards the Indians and the Africans.

The Indian tribes perished mostly in massacres provoked by the Spaniards colonists. The Indians were used to live in the nature without restriction of their freedoms; and even thoughts of becoming a slave were unacceptable for them. After capturing and reserving at the plantations, a lot of the Native Americans died from the epidemics, unknown to their immunities. Landowners oppressed the Indians constantly, but unsuccessfully, to break their will and force them to work obediently. Small part of Amerindians, who stayed alive, assimilated to colonists’ society due to the help of religious missionaries.

The Indians were native inhabitants of the USA, although that advantage didn’t help to defend themselves from the colonialists. In fact, Indians’ forced labor was replaced by Africans’ slavery. The Africans slaves were brought to the USA during the long period of time (1500-1850). The slaves were to work without compensation and the right to leave; they could be sold from the childhood, as they were considered to be a property of their slave-owner. Indentured servitude was an historical practice, according to which men and women, under age of 21, had to work for transportation, lodging, food, clothing and other necessities.

The African indentured servants usually signed contract for 4-10 years, but a lot of them died from hard 12-hours work before freedom receiving. In nineteenth century, medical care, enough food and family relations allowed the African population grew with the positive dynamic in the North America. Long-term submissive servicing gave the Africans chance to survive. Not all rebellions were successful, but regular character of the Africans' struggle and requirement of the human rights caused partly the victory in the American Civil War of 1861-1865.

The system of indentured servitude was commonly used by the European immigrants too, as they needed jobs abroad, but had no money for the transportation to the America. In the American colonial system, the Europeans appeared in a new role of jobseekers, not of conquerors. Migration made an impact to the world labor regime such as contract labor, especially it related to the Italians. Usually labor contractor received the contract stated part of worker's wage. The European peasants became workers in the USA. In 1689 the Toleration Act was accepted by the American Parliament. The religious freedom influenced the growth of the European immigrants, especially the Irish and the Germans. The immigrants' lives were full of extreme labor exploitation and frequent political repressions. To survive the European workers (in heavy industry or in mass production) had to strike and organize labor unions to defend the workers' rights in the Americas.

The Amerindians didn't manage to adapt to the violent colonial time conditions. A major amount of the Indian tribes didn't survive. The European colonists stayed in the US history as occupants and slave-owners. Slavery of the Africans becomes a black bloody page of the US history; meanwhile the African Americans' nation appeared as a result of their survival in the colonial America. The labor scarcity led to the European immigration to the USA. The European workers from the beginning of their arrival to the Americas received low-paid and unskilled jobs. After some years of hard work, close to the servitude, they successfully integrated

into the American society. Many European immigrants became members of labor unions and political parties. The European workers encouraged the American society to the important social reforms.