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Greasy lake t coraghessan boyle summary

The polluted water of Greasy Lake was a symbol. Public DomainThe story of Greasy Lake presents itself as a typical rebellunt cause-short story. It has three rebellious teenagers looking for problems on a summer evening--- and finding it. Boyle tells us about the narrator that it was a time when it was good to be bad. But a closer analysis of the story shows that the three boys are really lost. History shows the changing culture of time---something these young men desperately want to participate in. But they also do not have the ability to leave the comfort of their upper-middle-class lifestyles and suburban lives. Summary of Greasy LakeIn the story, three young men in their late teens set off on a summer night to look for trouble. Digby, Jeff and the narrator all make their way to the narrator's evening in Bel Air. The young men land at a local meeting point past the town known as Greasy Lake. They discover a car they think is a friend's car and decide to harass him. However, this ends up as a mistake, as the car contains a man with his girl. His anger at the harassmment leads to a fight with the three. The narrator eventually hits the man with a tire iron and punches him out. The three men did not know at the time whether he was injured or dead. When the young woman jumps out of the car to find out what is going on, the men begin to attack her in a frenzy of urwut. But before anything happens, they are interrupted by another car coming into the parking lot. Guilty--- they all run to hide. As the narrator waits in the weeds and dirt of greasy water, he comes across the bloated corpse. He is still waiting for the guy they wake up beaten up and after he has devastated the car in which the three rebels are still hiding for no reason. When they come out of hiding to inspect the damage to the car and find and find the dropped keys, another car pulls to the lake. Two women get out of the car and examine a motorcycle, the only other vehicle left. They show that the bike belongs to a guy named Al and the narrator realizes that this must be the corpse he was walking in the lake. But he says nothing. The girls ask the young men if they want to celebrate. Even though they originally set out, their rebellious spirit has disappeared. They left the lake in the battered car when the narrator noticed: I thought I was crying. The characters in Greasy Lake seemed to have developed their sense of wickedness from film images. DomaintLooking CoolThe story of Greasy Lake breaks down the perception of cool and bath and shows the reality of the situation. Most likely in the 1960s, these young men think of privilege over rebellion, but are unwilling to give up the security of their white, suburban lives. Part of their perception of was cool seems to have evolved from movies and television. They develop affectations that they consider bad. But even when the narrator explains how cool they are, he realizes that they are at school, where their parents are allowed to teach. Probably that the 19-year-old's high school colleagues take place during Vietnam, probably fight in the war, while the money and privilege of the three young men protect them from the draft. Water water in literature stands for spirituality and transition. The fact that the lake is greasy and polluted represents the blurring of time and the elusive wickedness that the three young men so long for. As the narrator rushes in the water, near Al's bloated corpse, he collapses. He realizes that neither he nor Digby nor Jeff are really bad. They don't want to be. You want the image without all the hardness. Thus, for one night, the narrator really immerses himself in the perceived life of wickedness that he wants, and the result is that he wants to return --- to the safety of his house, his parents, his subdued life. While there were indeed people who lived this life of wickedness, he recognizes the place of insecurity that leads them to it, and the real dangers that culminate in the floating corpse of the dead motorcycle owner are not for him. Greasy Lake is based on Bruce Springsteen's Spirit in the Night.Sister72 CC-BY-2.0 via Wikimedia CommonsBruce SpringsteenThe opening to Greasy Lake is a line from Springsteen's song Spirit in the Night. The line reads: It's about a mile down on the dark side of Route 88. But the plot of the texts is embedded in the story. The song contains the story of some people who decide to go to a greasy lake to have a good time. And some of them have a good time, but others end up in the lake with only their socks and a shirt. Although Springsteen's song looks like a fun and rebellious evening, the structure of the story can be matched to the lyrics. Boyle, however, took the experience and examined it from the other side and through the pain of darker memories and events. Perception vs. RealityA close reading of Greasy Lake shows a struggling group of friends who aren't sure if they identify or how they fit into the changing society. Feeling guilt in their own luxury life, they are trying to fit into the counterculture revolution. But a brief plunge into this greasy lake of decadence shows that they are not prepared for the true realities of what it means to be bad. Boyle's story is a complex character analysis with a deep Neither the water nor the characters are clean, but only one is really polluted. Think of Greasy Lake as a story about perceived reality vs. the truth and you'll understand the depth of the story, the characters and the plot. Test your knowledge of Greasy LakeFor every question choose best answer. The answer key is below. Which car do you drive to Greasy Lake? Station WagonBel AirCorvetteTrans AmWhich school does Digby attend? He's in high school. He doesn't go to school. HarvardCornellWhat does he claim to mix with grape juice? T or Q: The narrator throws his keys into the lake when he gets out of the car? T or F: The car they see at the lake is their friend, Tony Lovett's car. How does the narrator beat the man on the greasy lake? With the end of a pistolWith a tire ironWith its keysWith the fistWhy do the men stop attacking the woman? Another car comes up. A man on a motorcycle shows upYou get tiredYour friend wakes upWhat does the narrator find while hiding in the lake?a Froga motorcyclea bodya carT or F: The trans-am owner cuts the narrator's tires. What is the name of the man the women are looking for at the end of the story? Answer KeyBel AirCornellginFalseFalseWith a Tire IronAnother Car Comes a bodyFalseAllInterpreting Your ScoreIf you get between 0 and 3 correct answers: You might want to read the story again. If you've got between 4 and 6 correct answers: you're doing okay, but reread the story to understand the key points. If you get correct answers between 7 and 8: you can do better. Read the story and pay attention to details. If you've received 9 correct answers: Good job. You have understood the main plot points. It never hurts to read. If you got 10 correct answers: Great work. You have paid attention to the details of the story. Greasy Lake Inspired by Springsteen's Spirit at NightCommentsBarry Hammons on September 03, 2019:I have always wondered about the scars inflicted on these young men. Will they be persecuted in their future? LRR on June 20, 2018:We read this in my English lessons. So much depth, reality and metaphor in such a short story. Highly recommended! I didn't recognize Springsteen's song in connection with this story. Great summary. L C David (author) from Florida on February 20, 2017:It's fantastic. I definitely recommend trying it out! Rachael Lefler from Illinois on February 14, 2017:Wow, I just clicked on this one because it's related to one of my own hubs, but this story sounds interesting! A on October 29, 2014:This is really good summaryL C David (author) from Florida on February 8, 2014:There are great resources out there to help you understand the point of view. The first person's point of view means that a character tells the story. Third person usually means that history is not narrator is told. Pay attention to owner-in-hand words like Me, We and Us to find out if you have a narrator to speak. For verb tension, search for the verbs and help verbs in the sentences. If the helping verbs say the, then it is present. If the helping verbs were or are, then it is the past. But times could shift from the past to the present and back, so watch out for those moments. Is history history tells how it happens, or is it told about something that happened to the characters in the past? Do verbs end in ed or is it a flashback and told in the present form. The isolation of the verbs should give you your answer. There are more great resources about viewpoints and verb times in places like Purdue Online Writing Lab.lala on February 8, 2014:What is the point of view and veracity of this story T.C. Boyle is a famous American novelist with many awards to his name. Among his well-known works is a collection of short stories entitled Greasy Lake and Other Stories (1985), which deals with the doubts, uncertainties and problems faced by the people of America in the 1960s. This Penlighten article provides a summary and analysis for the cover story Greasy Lake. Super Master of His Art! T.C. Boyle received many awards for his work, including the PEN/Faulkner Award in 1988 and six O. Henry Awards. T.C. Boyle is a celebrated American writer whose work addresses a variety of issues related to society, its interactions, and its impact on situations and perceptions. He skillfully presents the conflicts of human nature and society in a satirical, easily accessible way, which readers from all backgrounds can access. His well-founded knowledge of the social issues of his time made his novels and short stories easy to tell. In his collection Greasy Lake and Other Stories (1985), the cover story of Greasy Lake focuses on the conflicts of three 19-year-olds who played in the 1960s between their perceived self-image and the true self inside. Summary Character Introduction The story begins with the narrator talking about a time when rebellious was in fashion, and the stereotypical image of the fat lifestyle - ripped leather jackets, slouching, apathy, drinking, rock'n'roll, and drug abuse - was the cool way of life. On the third day of their summer vacation, he is out with his friends Digby, who was a Cornell participant, and Jeff, who wanted to leave school to become either painting, music or head shop owners. They made their way to the Toots and the Maytals at night and looked for thrills. After a night of parties and vandalism, they decide to drive to Greasy Lake at 2:00 a.m. Description of the setting When the narrator describes the lake, he tells us that the Indians referred to it as The Wakan, which meant spiritual or divine. He tells us that the lake was once clear, and the sights, beautiful. But now it was a picture of dirt and murkiness, with broken glass, and charred remnants of bonfires that lined the shore. A devastated island, a hundred meters from the coast, seemed to have been destroyed and repeatedly bombed by many low-flying aircraft. Focal Scene between main characters and the 'Greaser' 'Greaser' they notice an abandoned chopper and a new state, blue '57 Chevy. They assumed it belonged to their boyfriend Tony Lovett and parked behind him to get a few laughs and a look at his girlfriend. Instead, when they get out of the car, the narrator has the first ominous sense that something goes wrong when he loses his car keys, followed by the realization that the man was not her friend, but an angry fattener. In what follows, the lubricator attacks the three bad guys, and in the heat of the moment, the narrator picks up his tire iron and lands a slap on the man. When he fails, the three friends are unsure whether he was still alive or dead. Just then the lady gets out of the car and makes accusations against her. In their excited original phase, Digby, Jeff and the narrator attack the girl to rape her, but are stopped halfway when headlights approach you. All three try to escape from the scene, and the narrator ends up in the dirty lake. Last realization While he waits in fear, he hears the smear erupt angrily, and he begins to search for him and his mates together with two other blonde guys (who had arrived in the car). And in all the chaos, he is horrified by the discovery of a corpse behind him in the lake. After a few curses and extreme vandalism of the Bel Air by the despised smear, the couple and the two men finally separate. The three want to be bad boys leave their hiding place and drive towards the car. When they found the car keys, they all realized in some ways that this is not what they were getting their way for when they picked up their fat-eaters, and they were all looking forward to returning to the safety and comfort of their homes. During the departure, two women come under drugs in a Mustang in search of their boyfriend Al. The three companions remain silent, knowing full well that these women could refer to the corpse in the lake. When asked if they wanted to celebrate with the girls, Digby politely refused, leaving her in her drug-influenced state. Analysis Setting This short story takes place in 1960s America, torn between war and changing morals and ideals. Amid this chaotic change, many teenagers are stuck between what they want to be and what they were. This drives them either into rebellion or in accordance with change. The three characters wanted to look cool and tough, with a we don't care for anything. Thus, The Greasy Lake is in itself an important part of what the author tries to convey. The lake is described as sacred and pure, but now a picture of dirt and damage. This could Reflect on the characters in the story who were once innocent but are now tainted by their dangerous ways. It can also symbolize how being in the murky waters baptized their minds and souls in a way, and how they emerged as new beings who now unsure about their bad boys' ways. Character Sketch Digby seems to be the leader, while the narrator and Jeff seem to be conformist. The characters are described as youthful rebels enjoying the fatter lifestyle, with dangerous thrills and spills. Although the narrator repeatedly refers to his bad-boy ways, certain details seem to contradict the same as their college education and musical fondness for the Toots and the Maytals, a reggae band that, unlike rock'n'roll, they say, is very much like it. The characters all want to go rebellious ways without having to bear the burden of it. They want the comfort of their home and their money, not the danger that encompasses their lifestyle choices. For example, the narrator uses the tire iron to attack the smear era in the way he had seen him many times in the cinema, but he was also afraid that he might have killed the man, which is not what he intended. Symbolism Uses Bruce Springsteen's song: The title comes from a Bruce Springsteen song called Spirit in the Night, which describes a similar fun evening that doesn't end so well for some. Boyle took up this idea and set his own dark turn with a deep look into human nature. Wakan: The 'Wakan' is a word from the Sioux language, which means spiritual or divine. This is used to describe how the lake used to be, and doubles as a reference to the characters that were once pure but are now corrupted by their choices. Toots and the Maytals: Contrary to their stated fondness for rock'n'roll, the characters are supposed to enjoy this reggae band. This could be a reference to their contradictory ideals. André Gide: He was a famous French writer and Nobel laureate who wrote about human conditions. One of his focal points was the morality of his story. '57 Chevy, Mustang and Bel Air: Back then, the Chevy and Mustang Muscle Cars were the style and power. The references may reflect the emphasis on what was in at the time and what attracted the characters. But the Bel Air they owned collided with who they wanted to be. William Westmoreland and the Battle of Khe Sanh: Westmoreland was an army general during the Vietnam War, whose controversial attack on Khe Sanh led to his being removed from his ranks. The act of mistreating the angry smear for a friend is reminiscent of that moment in history, when a major error of judgement led to fatal consequences. Rockette Kick: The kick that the smearer landed on the narrator is compared to the famous dance train of the Rockettes, a precision punch crew known for their eye-high leg entrances. Toltec mask: These masks came from the Teotihuacan, a meso-American city in history where these stone masks were made and generally recorded their expressive properties. The view on the face of the lubricator was compared to the same. Toad in the loaf: This is a nod to Ingmar Bergman's film The Virgin Spring, in which the appearance of a toad that the girl had hidden in the bread leads the antagonists to rape her. This is compared to her sudden, original need to exploit the helpless girl. Sabine Frauen: It is believed that the Romans brought the Sabine women en masse to Rome and raped them in order to start large families. The girl's cry in the story is compared to the cries of these helpless women. The Naked and the Dead: This was a book and film of the same name about World War II. The author compares his act of crawling and hiding with that of soldiers in war. About the author T. Coraghessan Boyle, or T.C. Boyle, as he is well known, was born in Peekskill, New York. He received his Bachelor of Arts (English & History) from the State University of New York in 1968, followed by his master's degree in fine arts in 1974 and a Ph.D. from the University in 1977. He is known for his portrayal of a wide range of characters borrowed from life and the times to which he belonged. He would then shape these characters in a way that was easy to connect, and his articulation made reading accessible to all. He is currently an English professor at the University of Southern California. Finally, I would like to say that Greasy Lake is a wonderful reflection into the life and times of 1960s America and is a great read, a well-informed representation of human conflict and the need to adapt. If this article has upset you and you have not read it, please give this book a read! Read!

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