Epiphany

The Red Door

In The Red Door the character Murdo lives in a village alone and tries to conform to the societal standards of the village. It isn’t until someone paints his door red until he has his epiphany where he realises he is miserable with the way he is living. The change we see in Murdo after his epiphany helps the reader understand the story’s underlying message to be true to yourself and not constantly try to please others

The first impression the reader gets of the character Murdo is that he is a lonely man with a routine that he sticks to religiously, “he lived by himself, prepared his own food, darned his own socks, washed his own clothes, and cultivated his own small piece of ground” it is also revealed that “he was liked by everyone”. This foreshadows his epiphany later on in that by trying to make everyone like him he ended up hating himself “I have never had the courage to wear what I wanted” and “I have always worn these things because everybody else does”. It’s this realisation that leads Murdo to change and do what he wants to do, starting with going to see the woman he loves and the one he suspects to have painted the door in the first place

Mother and Son

In Mother and Son the story follows 2 characters: John and his mother. Both characters live together with john taking care of his bed ridden mother. John works hard in the fields to provide for his mother but struggles to find a real job because of his immaturity. His mother condescends him any chance she gets. The son puts up with her abuse and conforms to all her demands until the last act of the story where it is left open ended to whether he left her or not.

John is first described as having “something childish” about his face, showing how he is still dependent on his mother and suggests a reason why he still submits to her and lets her bully him mentally. The Mother degrades her son any chance she gets to stop him from getting a job then moving away and leaving her “why, you’d be no good at a job” and “you’d get confused with all those strange faces and they’d laugh at you” show this as she is trying to manipulate him into staying at home and taking care of her. This leads to john to having an epiphany about his life and how he is dominated by his abusive mother, The story concludes with john staring out his open door and its unclear wither or not he left her.

The Telegram

The story follows two woman during WW2, both woman have sons who are fighting in the war. When both of them see the elder coming to deliver the news of someone’s death. As the elder gets closer both woman get more and more nervous but handle themselves differently, the elder passes and both woman are relieved which leads to their epiphany about one another’s life