**Representation of Women**

In the following stories: Home, The Telegram, The Red Door and Mother and Son women are negatively represented. In Mother and Son, John hates his mum. His mum also despises him, due to the fact he has amounted to nothing in life as he has cared for her all his life and never managed to get a job due to her care. In Home, Mrs Jackson is described as snobby and arrogant towards her husband as he wanted them both to visit their ‘home’ Glasgow. In the Red Door, Mary is seen as an outsider in the village as she refuses to conform so she has been left out from the rest of her villagers. Finally, in the Telegram, the Fat Woman shows contempt against the thin woman as her son has a better job than her own son. This shows the jealousy of the fat woman for the thin woman’s life due to their son’s statuses.

In the Red Door, Mary is negatively represented as she is called a ‘spinster’ which is the name of an unmarried woman who has passed the age that people usually get married at. She is portrayed as unusual as she refuses to conform within the village. She doesn’t want to fit in and as a result of this Murdo tells us ‘But her world was her own, depending on none.’ This highlights that Mary decides what she does herself and will not do anything anyone tells her to do. Mary’s individuality is positive for Murdo, but the other villagers do not like her because of it, therefore they don’t associate their selves with her. Murdo loves Mary’s confidence as he says ‘Murdo thought that anybody who read a lot of books and wrote poetry must be very clever’ even though in the sentence before it said Mary was ‘considered slightly odd by the villagers’. This shows he doesn’t care what anybody else thinks of Mary as he is attracted to her due to her looks and personality, he doesn’t care what the rest of the village think of her.

In Mother and Son, John’s mother is first described wickedly, ‘the woman was wrestling with some terrible witch’s idea in dreams’. This shows that John’s mother is nasty and possessed by a horrible character that gives her the ideas to put John through the levels of abuse that she does. ‘pettishly’. This also portrays John’s mother is very petulant towards John and doesn’t help his childlikeness by treating him like a child. This also highlights the negative representation of women in Mother and Son as she is always described nastily. ‘She had so much patience, and then again she enjoyed pricking him with her subtle arrows’. Again, highlights the enjoyment she gets from abusing John, she will keep firing insults at him until his breaking point. Also shows the negative aspect of women that Crichton-Smith portrays in all 4 of his stories.

In the Telegram, the story is based on 2 women who are both negatively portrayed. ‘They were like two birds, one a fat domestic bird perhaps, the other more aquiline, more gaunt, or, to be precise, more like a buzzard. Both women are negatively represented due to the descriptions given by ICS, they are not given names by the author which suggests they are not important enough to be named. One of the women is named based on her size which also shows how they are negatively portrayed. ‘The thin woman was not popular in the village. She was an incomer from another village and had only been in this one for thirty years or so’. This shows that the woman who has been a part of the village for three decades is still not accepted due to the fact she has come from another; the other villagers will not accept her due to the fact she hasn’t lived there all her life. ‘the fat woman was very stupid’. Another negative description of the fat woman by the thin woman also shows that they are very negative towards each other. In the stories it’s not just men that negatively represent women, they negatively represent each other.

In Home, the theme doesn’t change. ICS contuse to represent women negatively like the rest of his stories. ‘He stared at her for a moment in surprise and then said as if he had been listening to a witticism’. Mr Jackson doesn’t think highly of his wife as he has described her as witty. He is shocked that she would ever think to be so stupid. ‘Her face had a haggard browness like that of a desiccated gipsy and seemed to be held together like a lacy bag, by the wrinkles’. The description of Mrs Jackson’s appearance has never been good in home. This shows the way she is represented as Mr Jackson’s appearance is never described as badly as his wife, she doesn’t say very much but described by the author as if she is very ugly. ‘She kept her fur coat as far away as she could’. This highlights Mrs Jackson’s snobbery as she feels Glasgow’s surroundings are too dirty and unclean for a fur coat owned by a woman like her to touch. Pretence has very negative connotations which again shows how woman are negatively represented in all 4 of Crichton-Smith’s stories we have studied.