*Sacrifice*

‘Mother and son’ is about a mother who is extremely ill and bed ridden who depends on her son, john. Though John takes care of his mother his mother very cruel towards and throws insults constantly. Throughout the story we see John slowly lose his patience ending up with unresolved ending with john staring out his window with a grin on his face.

The first sign of Johns sacrifice is seen when he shouts “do you want me to take a job” at his mother out of anger. This shows that John is completely willing to work but is held back by his mother and seeks her approval to do so. He has sacrificed his life for his mother and has thus became resentful towards her as he blames her. We see how the village reacts to his sacrifice as they make a fool of him as seen “Then they get together and laugh at me”. This shows that despite Johns sacrifice he is treated as lesser than everyone else in the village. Even his mother treats him like scum despite his sacrifice for her. It is seen most clearly when his mother describes her father “My father was never like you, he was a man who knew his business”. This shows that despite his mother’s cruelness John still sacrifices his life which puts in question wither it’s his choice or not.

‘The red door’ is about our main character named Murdo who wakes up on November 1st to find his door has been painted red, this causes him to have an existential crisis about his confirmative village life. He feels as if he has sacrificed his whole life to be accepted by the others in the village ending in him chapping the door of a woman he has a crush on who has never conformed to village life.

Murdo has come to realisation that he has spent his whole life conforming as shown by “I have never,’ he thought with wonder, ‘been myself.” This implies that Murdo has never done anything for himself and has sacrificed his personality for the village and this has come together and has led to Murdo having a terrible life. He has just now realised as seen with “But was he really happy? That was the question. When he considered it carefully he knew he wasn’t.” This implies that Murdo has even sacrificed his happiness for the village and to make them think highly of him. Though now after his realisation due to the door he is finally able to do things for himself and make him happy. This I shown through Murdo realising that even the clothes he wears aren’t his own as seen “he didn’t like wellingtons and a fisherman’s jersey. He hated them in fact: they had no elegance”. This once again shows that Murdo bases everything he does and wears on the village and thus sacrifices his individuality.

The telegram is about two old women (thin and fat) sitting in their kitchen waiting on news from the local elder. It is set during WWII and the town elder delivers news about if somebody’s son has died in the village. We see the women get continuously tenser as the elder reaches their house but passes instead. We see the sacrifice getting introduced when we look further into the two old women and their differences.

We see sacrifice first when the thin woman and the fat woman are arguing and the thin woman says “When did you see me with good clothes in the church”. This shows that the woman was made to sacrifice her own happiness just to send her son to university which was seen by the village as strange and out of place. The village in return to her ambition has almost out casted her and looks down upon her as seen when the fat women says “Sending her son to university. Why did she want to be better than anyone else?” Due to the thin women being different and trying to do the best for her son she has sacrificed her social life and any chance of joining the community in the village.

Home is based around Mr and Mrs Jackson who used to live in Glasgow but moved to Africa to earn more money. In Africa they became very wealthy and have decided to return but come to realise than they have changed and don’t fit in any more.