Treatment of newcomers in a community setting

This was seen in The Telegram more so than the other stories. Although the thin woman had lived in the village for over 30 years, she was still considered a stranger, because everyone grew up together, but she did not grow up alongside them.

***“She was an incomer from another village and had only been in this one for thirty years or so.”***

Even though 30 years can be seen as a long time, it is used ironically, and reinforces the tight knit community.

She is also treated unfairly because she comes across as a “snob.” The other villagers jump to this conclusion as she strives for her son to have the best possible education. She wanted a life for her son and sacrificed having luxuries, so her son could go to university***.***

***“Also the thin woman was ambitious: she had sent her son to university though she only had a widow’s pension of ten shillings a week.”***

This was evidenced when the thin women sacrificed her life to the point of starvation as her sons future was more important than her health.

The thin woman was perceived as weak to the other villagers as she was skinny and always looking unwell.

***“The number of times the thin woman had been ill, and people had said that she was weak and useless.”***

The thin woman had been ill on several occasions in recent years, and a lot of it was down to the fact that she wasn’t eating as much as she should, just so she could afford to send her son to university. She was desperate to give him a life better than what the village could offer and wanted a better life than she had.

This was seen in Home not as much as The Telegram. Although the Jackson’s are originally from Glasgow they are seen as newcomers because they have returned to their hometown after a long period of time. Mr Jackson wants to see what changed since the last time they were here. No one that the married couple knew previously still lived there. Things have changed a lot. The community is now run down. They managed to escape from Glasgow to move to South Africa and they have a much better lifestyle.

***“The black polished car drew up outside the brown tenement…”***

It was also seen in Home when people were looking at the Jackson’s car, and Mr Jackson suddenly became protective of his car, convinced that they were going to scratch it, before arguing with some of the local people in the area.

This is seen in Mother and Son even though the son has lived in the village his whole life but due to his mother he has become an outcast. John has been looking after his Mother for the 10 years that she has been unwell and this has prevented john from getting a job and going out. The mother is mentally abusive to john and makes him feel worthless and describes him as his father’s son but not her own.

***“that would be the boys going to the town to enjoy themselves, He shivered inside his loneliness”***

This shows that due to the sacrifice john has made to his mother he has also been isolated from other people and can’t get a job and his mother describes him as useless and that he couldn’t get a job he’d be no good. She makes him feel worthless and powerless

“***Sometimes words come to me to silence her, but between the words leaving his mind and leaving his lips they had changed: they had lost their import, their impact, and their usefulness”***