

THE KITE  
(S. Maughan)

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The kite is a representative short story of S. Maughan. In this story kite has both negative and positive symbolical significance. It represents violations of personal pride, independence, high hope, accomplishment, freedom and expansion. Its negative aspect is feeling out of control or at the mercy of surrounding conditions.

In this story Herbert begins flying kites when he lives happily with his parents and feels free as though he can accomplish things in his life. He continues to have the same positive feelings symbolized by his kite, although his new wife has a different opinion and sees his kite a childish diversion that needs to be released. When they disagree to purchase a new kite, she sends Herbert back to his parents and breaks his kite. Herbert refuses to pay alimony and therefore, he has to go to prison because now the kite has reversed its symbolism and represents the negative meaning attached to it. The kite now someone out of control of his own life as now he is controlled by his wife, and he is at the mercy of surrounding conditions. Herbert has to go ~~to prison~~ to prison to protest and reestablish - one way or the other - control of his own life.

The story takes place in a superb and expands over a long period of time. The main theme of the story is the relation among family members. The main character in the story is brought up in a very different way compared to an average child. He is all through the story completely closed bonded to his mother only at the time when he lives with Betty, he is separated from her.

from her. But even when he is physically separated from her, he is still mentally dependent on her in the way that he cannot help to go to see her and his father at the ~~common~~ every Saturday. He either hates or loves <sup>her</sup> more than any other girl. It does not take Herbert many seconds to decide to come and help his parents with their new kite, when he hears that they have found another boy who can help them.

Thus, it can be concluded that the present short story bears much symbolic significance. Besides it, the story reveals connection and separation among the members of the family. As a ~~kite~~ kite goes high in the sky and gives pleasure to the kite-ties but, the next moment, it gives disappointment when there is disconnection in the thread with which the kite is linked, similarly Herbert, the main character in the story, gets disappointed when there is lack of harmony with his wife.

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