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## **Oddities in Dry September by William Faulkner Along with Racialism**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The representative of the stream of consciousness book, William Faulkner, included the history of the American south and human existence in his writings. He frequently depicted men's psychological and physical collapse as an American genius adept at expressing the hardships of the human heart. "Dry September," his short fiction, depicted racial tensions in the south as well as Miss Minnie Cooper's strange actions. Their anomalous behaviours, in particular, are evident throughout the process of building their identity. Hawkshaw, Mclendon, and Miss Minnie Cooper enter the stage with a dismal colour palette. The major characters are troubled by their identity issue, which is the same foundation of tragic existence. Will Mayes and Miss Minnie Cooper are involved in a rumour.

Keywords: black, rumour, rape, ground work, hate.

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### **Hawkshaw's Unfortunate Existence**

Hawkshaw, a hairdresser, is likewise struggling with his identity. He declares, as a white guy, that the story regarding Miss Minnie Cooper's link to the blacks was neither black nor Miss Minnie's fault. He is not a paranoid person. Hawkshaw's life is being tested by this fight, which occurs among a group of people in the barbershop. Hawkshaw is unsure of his own identity in these circumstances. When the reader wonders why Hawkshaw is so certain that the black man is innocent, and why, as a white man, he would rather defend the black man than believe the white guy, the reader is bewildered, laying the groundwork for the Negro's tragic fate. There are two sets of individuals at the barber shop: the barber Hawkshaw and the barber and the clients. The former advocates for negro justice, while the latter asserts that the white man is the supreme race and denigrates the negro at pleasure. They don't even have any self-reflection. Hawkshaw's tragedy is undeniable in the novel, in which one civilization is enormously dominating and other minor forces are doomed to perish. Hawkshaw will pay a high price for his tenacity, therefore the hairdresser's demise is unavoidable; he is caught between two cultures, unsure of his place in the world.

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### **The Tragic Life of Mclendon**

Mclendon, the second character, is at a crossroads in his identity. On the one hand, as a veteran, he subconsciously lynches himself to prove that he is still a soldier in order to avoid drowning his skill. He is not only a barbarian, but also a violent figure in the book. Furthermore, "the screen door shattered behind them, reverberant in the lifeless air" is an example of the severe natural surroundings (Faulkner, 1931, p. 8). Mclendon's identification here is that of a French frontline soldier with a medal, but a white voice who has no idea what's going on. He decides to lynch a black man to prove that he raped a white woman. The issue of racial inequality is expressed here as the black victims. Demonstrate that he is a capable soldier. They couldn't uncover evidence to show the Negro's wrongdoings as soldiers, so they had to make decisions on their own, much as "a Nigger is no significance; it's not cruel to make him die" (Jin, 2009, p. 46). A bunch of men display their nasty faces and carry out lynchings on the spur of the moment, and their humanity has been severely harmed. It accuses white invaders of brutality, a lack of compassion, and an inherent hatred of the black race, alleging that they use every methods at their disposal to subdue them, particularly when the black guy was detained and others attempted to kill him on the spot. When the black man complains about himself repeatedly, Mclendon asks him to get out of the automobile, and the black man then takes steps to explain himself. As a result, he is battling to prove his innocence. In the complete text, Negro is a tragic figure who has no right to exist and is discriminated against by white people, demonstrating that black people are oppressed by human nature and exist as tragic individuals in the story. When Mclendon's wife was waiting for him to return, he had a bad feeling about her, a lady who lived in her husband's shadow. She is also a tragic figure who is insecure. When Mclendon goes home, he has the feeling that his house is as small as a birdcage. Mclendon is confined to a little space, but in actuality he is a massive monster, and the dissonance between his inner and outward world throws him off. The future of Mclendon is causing a lot of consternation. "Under the frigid moon and the lidless stars, the dark globe looked to lie stricken" (Faulkner, 1931, p. 16). It depicts the hopelessness of Mclendon's situation by imagining his fate.

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### The Tragic Life of Miss Minnie Cooper

Miss Minnie, the third tragic character, is a white woman whose sad colour is prominent throughout the story. The old patriarchal framework constrains the outcome. She fabricates the rumour; she is 38 or 39 years old, and the myth claims that he is a sociable woman both young and old. Women should be stable, dignified, and not frivolous, according to traditional notions at the time. Chastity is really crucial for women. Miss Minnie's personality, on the other hand, is definitely out of date. Day after day, she discovers that the women she grew up with are now married. The mocking of those around her reveals a significant deal of indifference, indicating that Miss Minnie is in a survival crisis. The pressure comes not just from within, but also from others' sarcasm, and she loses herself in deep thought. For a brief while, she had a fantastic time with a bank teller, but she is eventually abandoned. People around him are even more dismissive of him, and she has suffered a major setback in her life, so they have symptoms that are comparable to fever. The loneliness of her appearance can be seen through his garments.

Because she wants to utilize some outside objects to retain her attractiveness, despite the fact that she is no longer young, you can see the solitary of her appearance and spirit through his garments. She still wants to experience sexual pleasure. Finally, she fails; she has a tendency to be desperate. Miss Minnie could not behave himself, she could not stop laughing boisterously in the midst of the square, despite the comments of those around her and the peculiar looks of those in the cinema. It's a way for her to let her pain out. "It's not simply a lament for the lost years of youth, but also a lament for the future" (Pi, 2009, p. 143)

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### The Tragic Lives of Other Litter Characters

The story also concentrates on a community of minor people, in addition to presenting the reader with tragic individuals. They're just a collection of people gathered at the barbershop who are likewise observing things through the eyes of white people, without passing judgement. However, in real life, they experience profound emptiness and depression. The barbershop is a unique location where one can take a glance into the world. The author of the novel chose the barbershop as the setting for the plot. Other barbers and customers, in addition to Hawkshaw, all demonstrate racism. Defending a black guy appears to be the same as betraying a white man, who is barred from the south at the time. Hawkshaw's return to the north is widely accepted. In the south, he is not welcome. It's ironic, because it's clear from the lyrics that Hawkshaw is in a precarious situation at the time. On the one hand, it's a description of men's chatter, but on the other, it's a horrible scenario for black people. The remainder of the folks are sitting uncomfortably, not looking at each other, and seem to be pondering something. In the light of thought of possible consequences, they support McLendon. These findings reveal that the tragic fate of a group of people in southern society.

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### Dry September as a short story related with racialism:

Despite its brevity, "Dry September" covers a wide range of topics in Southern culture. Rather of emphasizing the brutality of Will Mayes' killing, the novel concentrates on the events that led up to it, as well as the mentality that promotes such heinous action. A sense of insecurity is closely linked to sadism. For example, the violent mob's leader, John McLendon, may be brilliant at murdering defenseless blacks, but he is anything but successful in his personal life. His residence is characterized as "a birdcage and almost as small..." and he violently assaults his wife. He turns to various acts of sadism, whether against Will Mayes or his docile, mothering wife, because he can't accept personal failure.

Many of Faulkner's characters are victims of various social forces. Will Mayes is, of course, the most obvious sufferer. He is the only character who elicits our total compassion, and he makes no attempt to persuade us that he is guilty of raping his accuser, Miss Minnie Cooper. Miss Minnie, on the other hand, is a victim of her own sexual desperation. She is driven to desperation by her "idle and empty days": She has no occupation, no social position, and no intellectual interests. She fantasizes, trapped by her increasing age and hopes that even a hint of rape will indicate she is still sexually appealing. McLendon is also a victim — if only of the oppressive heat — but his issue stems from a sense of insecurity.

McLendon's aggressiveness is emphasized in every description: his visage is described as "furious," and his motions are portrayed as violent and barely under his control. He dashes through the home after punching his wife, "pulling off his shirt" and then searching "furiously" for it. There are five sections to the story: Parts II and IV familiarize us with Miss Minnie's history and give us an inside picture of her emotional state; and Section V gives us a glimpse of McLendon's home life and his rebellious tyranny over his wife.

"Dry September" establishes a new form of short story genre in this five-part structure, with greatest economy of expression and a sophisticated and intriguing style of narrative. It's worth noting that the entire story takes place in a single day, from the barbershop's "Bloody September twilight" on a Saturday through McLendon's return home at Midnight on the same day after killing Will Mayes. Even the finale of "Dry September" meets the criterion since it leaves the readers in a quandary about what will happen to Miss Minnie or McLendon whether they were directly or indirectly involved in the murder of Will Mayes.

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### Conclusion

In a nutshell, characters in the story "Dry September" are confronted with the problem of tragic existence, particularly three main characters, Hawkshaw, McLendon, and Miss Minnie Cooper, who are caught up in an identity crisis, causing them to be filled with too many uncertainties, and as a result, they suffer excruciating tortures. Furthermore, these small people play an important role in the story. Because all characters are built as an organic whole, it is necessary to understand each individual character when analyzing a work. The fundamental battle is centred on race; the black is excluded at that time in the south, revealing the white people's inequity treatment; additionally, the prevailing patriarchy culture suffocates the womanhood's personality.

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