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The Rocking-Horse Winner: A Study of Luck, Money, and Success ========== by Dr Oliver Tearle (Loughborough University) Th Rocking-Horsa Winne r is a shoar storie by D. H. Lawrence, whish wus fist puublished in 1926. Its a stori abaut luck, mony, and succes, and the dangurs of chasing aftew dem and investing too mutch in dem. But how we shuld analisis and intepret the stori remains cuwelar. In dis post we're goign to offor some notes towards an analisis of this clasic D. H. Lawrence stori. You can reed 'The Rocking-Horsa Winne r' here. The allure of luxury and wealth is a tantalizing one, but for Sarah, it remains an unattainable dream. Her husband's meager income struggles to keep up with their family's extravagant desires, leaving them with a perpetual sense of financial insecurity. The household whispers secrets of "more money," a nagging reminder of the family's financial woes. Sarah confides in her uncle Oscar about the tale of Paul, their gardener Bassett, and his alleged supernatural horse racing prowess. Paul's obsession with winning has yielded a substantial $300, but this windfall brings more stress than peace. He continues to gamble, convinced he can predict winners against incredible odds, much like his mother's own relentless pursuit of wealth. As the Derby approaches, Paul's fixation grows, and so does his anxiety. His mother returns home to find her son's hidden secrets, a painful reminder that Paul's quest for luck has come at a terrible cost. The night after the Derby, Paul succumbs to exhaustion, his spirit crushed by the unrelenting pursuit of wealth. One possible interpretation of "The Rocking-Horse Winner" is that excessive focus on acquiring luck can lead to one's downfall. By elevating the horse from a nursery toy to a bedroom fixture, Lawrence hints at Paul's desire for transition into adolescence, where sexual desires and exploration become paramount. Lawrence's work often explores the complexities of mother-son relationships, drawing upon Freudian theories of the unconscious and sublimation. The tale may be seen as cautionary, warning against the dangers of self-pollution and the perils of an unyielding pursuit of wealth.The Rocking-Horse Winner | Characters Paul The young boy who serves as the protagonist of the novel, Paul is a metaphor for what might happen to children when parents are overly selfish and don't pay attention to their needs. His mother, Hester, worries for her children but doesn't care for them. She's constantly observed wanting more money and gifts, stopping her from expressing emotions towards her children or life. Oscar Cresswell The well-off uncle of Paul and brother of his mother. He finds out that Paul and Bassett are betting on horses and joins them in their pursuit to help his sister financially. Bassett A straightforward, devout, and slightly naive man who serves as Uncle Oscar's personal nanny during the war and is now the gardener for Paul's family. Paul's Father A largely absent figure from both Paul's life and the plot. He works in a city and likes a luxurious lifestyle. Joan One of the two sisters of Paul. Her only significant aspect is that she gets irritated by Paul's rocking-horse riding. Nurse Paul and his family's nanny, who seems to notice Paul's frantic horse riding early on. ==========As the family's quest for wealth clashes with their true financial struggles, a sense of unease settles in. Despite their efforts to appear affluent, they're trapped in a cycle of monetary instability. This tale serves as a cautionary warning about the dangers of materialism and consumerism, where characters and events represent deeper societal issues. The narrative is presented from a third-person perspective, focusing on Paul's thoughts and experiences, allowing readers to delve into his psyche. Rich sensory details paint a vivid picture, while metaphors add depth and meaning. Paul's frantic rocking on the horse symbolizes his desperate search for good fortune and his family's financial woes. The biblical allusion to Herod foreshadows the devastating consequences of his obsession. The title "The Rocking-Horse Winner" is a poignant irony, as success in Paul's competitive world comes at a terrible cost. The rocking horse, once an innocent toy, now represents the corrupting influence of worldly desires and the loss of childhood innocence. The tale expertly foreshadows Paul's tragic demise, setting the reader up for his ultimate downfall. In the story's early stages, Little Paul confronts his mother about their family's economic situation. His mother brushes off his questions, attributing their financial struggles to bad luck. However, this sparks a realization in Paul that he can make money by tapping into God's domain of luck. He develops a childlike yet ingenious plan: simulating horse races on his rocking horse to predict the winners. Paul's method proves uncannily accurate, and as he accumulates wealth, he becomes convinced that luck is tied to money. When asked about his plans for his winnings, Paul shares his scheme with his uncle, who devises a way for Paul's mother to receive the money anonymously. However, when she receives the first payment, she shows no emotion, leaving Paul perplexed. As the story unfolds, Paul continues to give his mother large sums of money, but each time, it only seems to fuel her desires and expectations. In desperation, he tries to please everyone by making even more money, setting off a downward spiral that will ultimately lead to his downfall.As the Derby drew near, Paul's fixation on winning only intensified. His uncle Oscar, who had initially encouraged Paul's hobby, now saw an opportunity too good to pass up. He placed a wager on Malabar, despite feeling uneasy about it. The third day of the Derby arrived, and Paul lay comatose in bed, his life hanging in the balance. When he finally regained consciousness, he was told that the bet had paid off handsomely - over 80,000 pounds for his mother's benefit. However, Hester remained oblivious to the sacrifices Paul had made for her, and her sole concern was the influx of wealth it had brought into their lives. As Paul lay dying, he begged his mother to acknowledge his luck and love for her, but she was unable to offer him comfort in his final moments. His uncle Oscar offered some cold solace to Hester, suggesting that death might be a blessing in disguise. As the story unfolded, it became clear that Hester's obsession with appearances and wealth had come at a great cost to her family. She had neglected her children, including Paul, who felt his emotions so intensely that he couldn't control them. The household was plagued by an unrelenting sense of inadequacy, as if they were always running out of money. Paul's determination to prove his luck had become an all-consuming force, driving him to make impossible demands on himself and those around him. Meanwhile, the gardener Bassett, who had befriended Paul, continued to share his passion for horse racing with the boy. The bond between Paul and Bassett remained strong even as Paul's health began to decline. As the truth about Hester's character became clear, it was evident that she would stop at nothing to maintain her facade of wealth and status.The Derby was coming up, and Paul's passion for winning had reached a fever pitch. His fixation on the big horse race consumed him whole, leaving Hester feeling anxious about his well-being. As she stood outside his room, listening to a strange noise emanating from within, Hester hesitated before making her way inside. What she found was unsettling - Paul's rocking-horse was moving at an incredible pace, casting a peculiar glow over the scene. With a deep voice, Paul proclaimed, "It's Malabar!" before collapsing to the floor. Days later, Paul's health had taken a turn for the worse. Bassett delivered the news that Malabar had won the Derby, and Paul would soon be receiving an inheritance of eighty thousand pounds. Paul's excitement was palpable as he envisioned using his newfound wealth to prove to his mother that luck favored him. However, fate had other plans. Tragically, Paul passed away that night, leaving Hester to ponder the true cost of his obsession.

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