

Guy de Maupassant Biography

      There were several events in Guy de Maupassant that lead him towards the life of a writer. The Maupassant’s were a free thinking family, which most likely fueled his teenage rebellion and imagination. He was also a private in the army during the Franco-German War and his experience on the battlefield fueled inspiration for many of his stories. But perhaps the most influential experience of all was his internship with famous novelist Gustave Flaubert. Guy’s mother asked him to keep an eye on her son in Paris after the war, and the two of them used to go to lunch on Sundays and Gustave would give him advice on his prose and literary exercises. This fostered Guy’s interest in writing and was influential in him becoming the writer he did.

     Guy was a member of the naturalist and realist schools of writing. Naturalism is often displayed through a scientific way of thinking. The narrator is non-judgemental about a world in which heredity and the environment have lots of control over the characters. The writings usually focus on lower socioeconomic class members that have moral failings. The characters and their personalities tend to drive the plot more than events do. The tone is detached and scientific, and ugly words are often chosen instead of elegant diction. Realism is the opposite of romanticism. Characters have multiple sides and aren't stereotypical. It uses common vernacular dialects and talks about concrete things instead of ideas. The setting is typically during a specific and real time and place in history. Also, many details are included in the narration. Lastly, similar to naturalism, characters are driven by greed, lust, and other human desires rather than honor, service, or chivalry.

     Guy’s style includes many characters who are insane. It has been suggested that he was already mad because they were extremely realistic. However, the writing is well done and shows no signs of insanity. His stories are incredibly realistic and often contain topics such as greed, lust, and ambition as a driving force for the characters. He does a fantastic job of telling time and pacing his stories. Lastly, his stories often contain a theme of a lower class person working unsuccessfully to raise his or her station.

     Guy de Maupassant is credited with creating a path that lead to creating novels lacking a moral focused message. Henry James even called him, “A lion is the path of morally significant literature.” He wrote novels that told the bitter and tough truths of life without watering them down, and he helped society progress in terms with recognizing things they had preferred not to before.”

     Guy was a rebellious teen, and all that came from his parents divorce. It increased to such a degree that he purposely got himself expelled from school for some trifling little offense. He has written six books and three hundred short stories.

Links:

<http://www.spisovatele.cz/guy-de-maupassant>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Guy-de-Maupassant>

<https://www.shmoop.com/the-necklace-maupassant/writing-style.html>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/guy-de-maupassant-biography-740701>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/arts/highlights/000808_maupassant.shtml>

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/literature-and-arts/language-linguistics-and-literary-terms/literature-general/naturalism>

<http://biography.yourdictionary.com/guy-de-maupassant>

<https://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/realism.htm>

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