Notes about the novel Ethan Frome

When we decide to read a novel, we have to know the title and the author. The title is Ethan Frome, name and surname of the main charters. Why the author decide to call the novel “Ethan Frome”? The man in interesting for some reason.

Introduction

What the writer wants to say? The speaking voice is in first person and the message is what he/she is going to tell us is from different people and from different point of view. It is the result of different way. The story is set in Massachusetts. The narrator meets Ethan Frome in the post-office, central position in the village, for the first time. He underlines his phisical conditions, he is invalid. The first question is: what happens? He confesses his attraction for the charter, he is curious.

The structure of the novel (prologue, some chapters and epilogue)

Why the writer decided to organized the story in this way? The prologue has got a function. What is? It is allert the reader about narrative tecnique. The story is a recostraction. Another function is capture/attract the attenction. The first element is the protagonist disability and the desire to know his story. The setting is winter, cold, dark, it is simbolical.

Characters

**Zenobia:** for the first time I consider the name, the ethimological origin of this name. The name refears to Zeus, the God of God in Ancient Greece. In Literature is fondamental the choise of proper name. The surname is only Frome, her husband’s surname, and so we can understand the role in puritan society.The name is something important, without name you haven’t an identity. We don’t know about her family because she hasn’t a second name. Mrs Zeena is a victim and the only way she can reach attenction is acting like a nurse. In the past she had worked as nurse of Ethan’s mother. When Ethan’s mother die, both Ethan and Zenobia felt sad because they were alone, they needed company and so they married. She’s not attractive, she looks old, she was unsociable, she didn’t interacted often with her husband.

**Mattie**: She has a sweet name, like a teddy-bead, in contrast with Zenobia. Her surname is Silver that refears to shimmering.

**Ethan**: he isn’t a strong man, he is submitted by Zenobia.In the past he had to look after his mother and so there is a reproposition about this situation. He is a victim of enviroment, he is afraid by judgment, he is submitted by society. He is insicure. He isn’t able to make decisions. Why? He doesn’t want the someone suffers his decision. But about his feelings? He doesn’t believe what he do. On the contrary he is influenced by people’s opinion because he doesn’t seem to have strong convinction. He likes scientific books, he isn’t an ignorant, he has abstract ideas. He is idealistic, but he gives up his nature, on the base of circustances. Why? Because he doesn’t want stay alone. He feels well because Mattie speaks with him about scientific books. Mattie represents the object of desire. Mattie becomes important to Ethan because he seems old with Zeena.