

“How do 1984 and ONE related text of your choice represent the complexity of human experiences?”

Humans by default are individuals that are capable of perpetuating harm AND be beacons of kindness. These variations and inconsistencies reveal the human experience to be complex, and cannot be readily defined nor justified. This notion is explored through George Orwell's 1949 novel "1984" and Amma Asante's 2018 film "Where hands touch" which highlight the complexity of both individual and collective experiences through the portrayal of disempowerment, love, hatred and fear.

George Orwell's 1984 represents the complexity of the individual experience of disempowerment, through the suppression of autonomy and the subduing of human agency at the hands of a totalitarian regime. The complexity is explored through the protagonist's desire to utilise human agency to exercise the cathartic power of the written word through the possession of a diary. Orwell employs sensual visual imagery of, "*smooth creamy paper, a little yellowed by age*" to highlight Winston's desire to possess the diary in a society dominated by juxtaposed images of "*no colour...except the posters*" in conjunction with high modality to highlight Winston as a societal anomaly, due to the inconsistency of his individual experience in relation to the totalitarian society of Oceania. As a result, Orwell can evoke a perplexed reaction from the readers, effectively enticing the audience to question their perspective on the world they live in. Furthermore, Winston's disempowerment is further epitomized through the prohibition of human agency in a totalitarian society, as "*Nothing was your own except the few cubic centimetres inside your skull*" signifying through the vivid visual imagery and hyperbolic language used, the apparent dangers of having individual thoughts. Effectively providing a valuable paradox as a role of government is to organize and protect the people not oppress them.

Amma Asante's 2018 film "Where hands touch" represents the complexity of love through the innate desire to achieve an authentic relationship of love and fulfilment despite the vigorous political power of the Nazi's. This is epitomised through the development of Lutz, a Nazi soldier and Leyna a German of African descent's forbidden intimacy. The individual experience of love catalyses the restoration of hope for the audience as despite Lutz being forced to conform to the Nazi higher regime, Lutz becomes an anomaly within society as he loves a biracial German. Through the employment of an eye-level shot in conjunction with light backlighting on an elevated contrast range, Lutz's figure is adherently focalised. Asante employs dark background colours to portray the environment as both melancholy and oppressive. Asante utilizes light backlighting to distinguish Lutz from the dark background, symbolising to the audience Lutz represents a sense of hope. This results in Lutz becoming a societal inconsistency. Asante further employs mise en scene to alter the composition of the shoot with Lutz being positioned at a higher angle, symbolising his authority over the prisoners,

resulting in a paradoxical character as despite being in a position of power he refuses to use it.

Orwell conveys the complexity of hatred in the two minutes hate as the collective is powerless to resist the psychological indoctrination of the party. As for Winston “*. chanting always filled him with horror. Of course he chanted with the rest: it was impossible to do otherwise...*”. Orwell utilized Winston's paradoxical motives to reveal to the audience he reluctantly conforms to societal expectations in order not to be found as a societal anomaly. Furthermore, Orwell represents the complexity of hatred as “*A group of people broke into rhythmic chants of ‘B-B!...B-B!’—*” Orwell’s utilisation of a collective pronoun evokes an inclusive symbolism of the collective, whereby high modality diction coupled with the truncated repetition of ‘B’ symbolises the rhythmic pattern of a beating heart, signifying the unity of the collective. Orwell further employs the paradox of through purging hate for Goldstein, love and admiration for Big Brother has resulted. This results in the audience understanding the manipulative methods of control used by totalitarian governments and the individual's inability to resist.

In the 2018 film “Where Hands Touch” the instilling of fear through the dictation of the higher Nazi regime, reveals an ostensible complexity of the collective human experience. Asante utilises mise en scene to represent the contrast of an obese male soldier and vastly malnourished women to demonstrate the imbalance of both power and status.

Additionally, Asante utilises an eye-level shot to immerse the audience into the scene, ultimately engaging the viewer with the slow rhythm music establishing a rigid atmosphere. The composition of the scene, with the soldier looming condescendingly over the women, representing how the Nazi’s look down upon the Jews as well as to reveal to the audience the maximal intimidation of fear the soldier is instilling in the women effectively representing a paradox as soldiers are meant to protect and serve the people of their country, not ferocious slaughter them. Despite the soldier instilling fear in the collective, the women refuse to follow dictation and decline to conform to the soldier’s orders and instead stand they as a collective. Furthermore depicting the collective as paradoxical as despite them being marginalized by the greater German society, they abide by their moral standings and stand as a collective essentially creating an inconsistency in the prisoner’s behaviour.

In conclusion, the exploration of individual and collective experiences of disempowerment, fear, hatred and love, in George Orwell’s 1948 novel 1984, and Amma Asante’s 2018 film where hands touch, effectively convey the

complexity of human experiences as individuals and collectives can be inconsistent, paradoxical and can contain analogies. Ultimately, enticing the audience to challenge their assumptions and adherently deepen our understanding of human motivations and behaviours.