



Themes of Love and Friendship in the novel *The Room on the Roof*.

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ABSTRACT

Love and friendship are the great components playing a vital role in every human life, especially adolescents. These are the foundation of a happy life. In the novel *The Room on the Roof*, the author explained the importance of love and friendship as well as the impact of not having those things through the life of the protagonist Rusty. The author portrays the adolescent lifestyle which consists of loneliness, love, friendship, Identity crisis and discrimination issues. This paper is an analysis of the village boy's sufferings to reach the height of his own dream life with the help of Love and Friendship. The protagonist's experiences are taken as a diasporic element which means, the person who left from the homeland to make his life in a better way.

Introduction:

Ruskin Bond is a famous Indian author of British descent born on May 19, 1934. His writing style includes unique themes with a simple and lucid language. He frequently uses the set in the Himalayas in his stories. Bond has received various awards as honor for his literary contributions. The notable awards are Sahitya Akademi Award, Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. He has used symbolisms to convey the deep meaning and emotions of the characters. And also he includes humor to make the readers interesting.



The Room on the roof is a semi-autobiographical novel which was published in 1956. It is considered the classic of Indian literature. The story goes forward with the 16 year old boy Rusty. His journey continues with his friends named Somi and Ranbir, who gives more moral and emotional support and plays an eminent role in Rusty's personal growth and self-discovery. Rusty finds comfort in the natural world which helps him to increase the strength. In this novel, the author developed the feeling of love with the character Meena Kapoor, who gave emotional support to Rusty. Additionally the story includes the elements such as Diaspora (means, which refers to the dispersal of people from their native to other parts of the world). Multiculturalism (Coexistence and celebration of diverse cultural Identities within a society) and racism.

Love and Friendship of Rusty:

In the wonderful novel "The Room on the Roof," the author describes the story of an orphan boy named Rusty, who lived with his Anglo-Indian guardian, Mr. John Harrison, in Dehradun. As a young boy, Rusty wants to explore the world but his guardian never allows him to go out from home. He didn't provide the care and love to Rusty. Rusty feels alone and struggles to improve himself and faces many inconveniences in that home. He decided to leave home to explore the world and make his life happy. During his journey, he met new friends, Somi and Ranbir. Their bond grew strong, filled with many happy moments. For instance, Rusty celebrated Holi with his friend Ranbir in the streets, experiencing a life filled with colors and hope. He particularly cherished his friendship with Somi, who helped him secure a job as a tutor at the Kapoor's home. As a tutor, Rusty guided Kishen and finally stayed with the family. He played a vital role in Kishen's life as a tutor, friend, and well-wisher, providing unconditional love and support.

While the days goes on, he likes Meena Kapoor's care and support. Meena Kapoor was the first and the best lady he had in his lifetime. After some days, Rusty reveals his love towards Kapoor and she also accepts his love. Rusty's mind filled with full of passionate thoughts and restlessness which symbolized an extremely strong feeling of love. Their romance is a central theme in the novel, highlighting the intensity and passion of adolescent love.

"Rusty puts his arms around Meena.....and she made no effort to free herself. She laughed into his face and her eyes danced in the shadow and he stifled her laughter with his lips... "The affair



between the married woman and an adolescent boy was clearly explained by the author. But unfortunately she was died in a car accident and his life was totally collapsed. Rusty could not tolerate her absence in his life. This highlights the fragility of life and the impact of love and loss on human relationships. He continues his days with the memories of Kapoor. During these days his colorful life was turned into darkness.

Meanwhile, as a tutor, he forged an unbreakable bond with Kishen. They enjoyed each other's company and learned valuable life lessons together. After Kapoor's death, Kishen's life took a turn for the worse, and he turned to theft. Rusty later discovered Kishen's situation and sought to reconnect with him. Their reunion helped them realize their mutual need for love and support. Rusty's confidence, bolstered by their friendship, enabled him to help Kishen through tough times. Ultimately, Rusty canceled his England trip to stay with Kishen and guide him back on track. Together, they returned to India, starting a new chapter in their lives filled with hope and happiness.

Conclusion:

Ruskin Bond's masterful exploration of love and friendship in 'The Room on the Roof' leaves an ever lasting impression on everyone, highlighting the beauty and importance of these universal themes. As Rusty, many people are longing for love and care. If they get proper guidance and support, they will become successful in their life and can lead a peaceful life.

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