

Student's Name

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Course

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The theme of Alienation in the "Native Son"

Nowadays people suffer from emotional depression and isolation due to various reasons. Toxic relationships, for instance, showcases the struggles individuals face in their family, or society in different cultures. Literary works developed in the 90-s attributed to highlighting the challenges related to alienation. The understanding of the theme of alienation exposes the essay above to exploring Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*. In his works, Wright incorporates certain events among the primary characters that showcase the aspects of analyzing the theme of alienation. The essay synthesizes the attributes of Bigger Thomas (Mary's boyfriend) in expanding the theme of alienation basing the arguments from the *Native Son* novel.

In the *Native Son*, Bigger Thomas suffers from emotional isolation and dissociation from Mary's blind mother, and as a result, ends up committing criminal injustices. As a servant in a wealthy family, Bigger Thomas was issued with the role of taking Mary to school and returning her home after school (Schotland 10-16). One day, Bigger Thomas had to pick up Mary Dalton from her boyfriend's place. On their way, the three guys involved themselves in an argument, because of which Mary Dalton felt very bad. Bigger Thomas took the initiative of carrying Mary Dalton to her room to let her rest. However, upon arrival, Mary's mother finds Bigger in Mary's room, and the imaginations of Thomas regarding the reaction of Mary's mother made him kill Mary and burn her in a nearby furnace (Schotland 2-8). In this scene, theme of alienation is witnessed due to the emotional dissociation of Bigger Thomas in facing confrontation from Dalton's family. Skin color differences between Mary

and Thomas indicated a social gap that could have resulted in the dismissal of Thomas from his job, but Thomas chooses to isolate himself from the stress by killing Mary.

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Work Cited

Schotland, Sara D. "Breaking Out of the Rooster Coop: Violent Crime in Aravind Adiga's White Tiger and Richard Wright's Native Son." *comparative literature studies* 48.1 (2011): 1-19.

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