

ABSTRACT

Henry James, the author of What Maisie Knew, criticized the adult corrupted world which mostly occurred in the British upper class during the nineteenth Century by using an innocent child, named Maisie. In this thesis, the writer is interested in following the process of how the child develops her mentality as a result of the adults' attitudes toward her.

This thesis discusses Maisie's condition which is surrounded by the corrupted world. Here, Maisie's parents and stepparents represent the adults who agree with getting divorced and committing adultery. For them, marriage means sex and money, and they will do anything to achieve their purpose. They even unreluctantly use their child, Maisie, to achieve their own ends. Therefore, living among the corrupted adults really makes Maisie's life miserable. It is her miserable life that later on leads her to develop her mentality.

In What Maisie Knew, Henry James presents to the readers the condition of the corrupted world where Maisie lives in and its influence on the growth of the child's mentality.

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