

## Immature Psychological Defense in John Updike's *A&P*

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Come up to someone's expectations our society allows two cup of tea: to conform or to rebel and escape. In the story "A&P" John Updike comments on the nature of a desire to escape from society's grain of salt. As I see it, this story takes place during the nineteen sixties. The desire to escape colors, our view of circumstances. It's viewed through Sammy's outlook of the A&P customers, his reaction to boss, and final actions which are back talk to the conflict in the store. In "A&P" John Updike promotes a theme of maturation. At heart the tale anticipates the progression of an age where the young protagonist, Sammy, in a gesture of empty heroism, quits his job at the supermarket for his premature infatuation to three bathing suits. Later he realizes that how hard the world.

It brings to light the author's illustration of Sammy's antipathy for those who conform through his reactions to the A&P customers. Sammy interprets first lady's reaction to his mistake of calling HiHo crackers twice. He turns to conclude that she is glad to have caught him making a mistake. He labels her a "witch" which demonstrates his lack of respect. Other customers also baptizing her to sheep and Sammy implies that the customers are bland and depreciating them. Next level, he calls them as "scared pigs in a chute also illustrate his lack of respect for them. Sammy's pleasure not to conform has colored his view of anyone who suspects off the same. He ascertains that anyone who acts within the expectations of society is blind and turns a follower of discrimination. This inspires and regrets of an unfair judgment. Sadly for Sammy, his grace act goes unnoticed by Queenie and her friends left to face the after effects of his childishness.

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The optimistic reader may call that a sensitive hero has been freed from a dead-end job and a restrictive moral code, but reality responses and Sammy's act has left him in a kind of limbo: in nothing flat Sammy now belongs neither to the world of Lengel and his parents nor to the world the girls represent and to which, through his romantic gesture, he aspires. Indeed, Sammy's conventional, comic voice is perfectly cops with his nineteen years. In walks, these three girls is nothing but bathing suits, the story abruptly shoots. The three cutes, wearing only their bathing suits, come into an A&P grocery store in a New England town. Sammy, a young hero working the checkout line, closely watches the tree eye candies. He appraises their looks even in minute's details the way they carry themselves. He also speculates their personalities and their grid for entering the store. Sammy is particularly interested in one among the chanting teens who leads the group. She, "Queenie," has a natural grace and confidence, in addition to her beauty. The three beauties roaming the aisles of the A&P, create a stir.

The store is in the center of a town near the beach, where their attire would attract less notice. Sammy's coworker Stokesie ogles and joking around with Sammy as he does so. Sammy anticipates the contrast for a marriage by Stokesie. She's resigned to be a life of working at A&P, whereas Sammy admitted he and Stokesie are much alike, seems to feel a future is beneath him. Another of his friends begins to ogle; Sammy frustrated a twinge of pity for them, for most likely without realizing it. Coming to age, a transition from childhood to adulthood, Sammy is a typical nineteen year old is amused by the reactions, but also defensive. In addition, he does not imitate his life but he is afraid of labeling an eve teaser or goes awry. Disappointing his parents, he quits job in support of the girls.

He questions conformity and wants to make it clear to the audience that he is not like the other working in the grocery store. Imagination diverges through Stokesie, a coworker who hopes to become a manager one day. Whereas Len gel who hides behind the office all day. Neither men are happy to work in the store as long as they have .One of the most critically respected and popular American novelists and short story writers of his generation; Updike is regarded as a premier

chronicler of life in suburban America. Although most famous for his quartet of novels on the life of Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom – two of which, *Rabbit is Rich* and *Rabbit at Rest*, earned him Pulitzer Prize – Updike has established a large and steadily increasing body of best – selling novels, short stories, essays and poetry since his arrival on the literary scene in the 1950s.

Updike got an unfair rap as a sexist – but he was a misogynist. Critics widely view his works as a commentary on the moral and social fabric of American life, asserting his characters demonstrate the universal struggle between selfish gratification and humble restraint Updike compares them to nonconformity that they are working against the rest. They walk down the aisle to distract male workers and also disrupt the store itself. In all sense, their bathing suits are not appropriate attire for grocery stores leads a question to nonconformity. But promptly it comes to an end of excitement as the girls choose Sammy's checkout line to make their purchase.

The store manager named Lengel approaches Sammy's checkout lane. He chastises the three bathing suits for entering the store, citing store policy. They feel awry to his approach and Queenie protests and defend him that she's there for her mother to get herring snacks. From this Sammy gleans insight into Queenie's life. Sammy dreams of her parents at a party, dressed nicely and sipping drinks the color of water. Dream clashes while his own parents pass through it, where people alcohols lemonade or cheap beer. While the girls begin to leave Sammy intervenes to Lengel and quits his job as a protest for Lengel embarrassing the girls. Sammy felt happy of it that the girls are looking at him. Lengel tries to talk Sammy out of quitting that he will regret the decision later and that decision will disappoint his parents. However, Sammy feels that Lengel must see the gesture through to its conclusion; he exits the A&P. When he reaches the parking lot, but girls are long gone. Sammy is ambiguous for future that forebodes about what life has in store for him.

In short Sammy recollects all the three with his romantic eyes as they wander the store to arrive at his cash register with their "Fancy Herring Snacks." The store's middle-aged manager notices the girls and

reminds them of the store's clothing policy, sudden an "unsuspected hero," awakens in Sammy, defends them by quitting his job. The immature Sammy recognizes that "once you begin a gesture it's fatal not to go through with it all of a sudden Lengel reprimands Sammy of the upshot of his act that he walks out. Meanwhile he gets to the parking lot; the girls are out of the window, realizes "how hard the world was going to be to me hereafter."

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