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Interpretation Project - A Small Place

While reading *A Small Place*, you can see that Jamaica Kinclaid shows just how ugly tourism is, both morally and physically. Tourism is normally thought by most people as a great vacation, or maybe even a fun hobby, but Kinclaid shows the other side of what tourism really is. In many parts of the book, she often points out the fact that even though outsiders may think something is beautiful or special, that attraction is usually a difficult thing for the people who live there to deal with. It is also worth being noted that Kinclaid describes some tourists as “fat, pastylike-fleshed” people on the beach. Tourism is not what many people think, and has a much darker side to it in many occasions.

At the end of the first section, Kinclaid goes on to explain the ugliness of tourism. She points out the many flaws, and how oblivious tourists are to the lives of the people who live in the area they are in. It makes you realize how blind we are to the activities we participate in, and how all that matters to us is the look or how spectacular something is, and that the negative effects of that particular something that we are looking at is just not our problem, and theirs to deal with, because it doesn't affect us.

The beauty of the island makes it very hard for the people of Antigua to show how they truly live their lives, The tourists are completely blind to the problems that the Antiguans are facing because all they see is the beauty of the island, and not that the people that live there face extreme drought because they rarely get rainfall due to the sunny, clear skied nature of the island. It also hides the fact that they were colonized and how it has impacted the Antiguans lives in such a drastic way, but no one realizes it because it is just simply not their problem, and they do not want anything to do with it.

Kinclaid called some tourists fat, pasty skinned people on the beach, pointing out the physical “ugliness” of tourism. There is some form of stereotyping in this statement, in the way that most people really do see tourists like that. Tourists in movies and cartoons are hardly pictured as slim, fit, and fair skinned people at all. They are instead shown as some unfit person, with a camera and a hat, even so often times sitting at a beach. It really makes you realize how you think of some people and how stereotyping can be really harsh at times and make a big effect on some people’s lives.

The effects of colonization on the people of Antigua is also unseen by those who tour the place, because no one bothers to see how the people think of the British for just taking the home land they lived in. In Gregory Swainstons essay of the effects of colonization he states, “The horrible things that she has faced turned her against the British, but there is not a way to be fully against the British because she is one of them.” (1). It is clearly obvious that these people can not rise up or really hate these people for coming in, because they have become them. Tourist are blind to this because all they see is an attractive island!

Things are rough in the island of Antigua and only the people of Antigua know. They are unable to show their feelings towards it because no one will listen. The British do not treat them well and are only there for the beauty. They give them cheap, Japanese cars that hardly work at times, and they think that the Antiguans should be grateful to them for all they have done, even the right to speak English.

The effects of tourism on Antigua is so great, but no one knows. They don’t see the drought the place has, they do not see the colonization of the place and how it has affected them, and they will never be seen as good people. Tourists are stereotyped and made to look bad from the people of Antigua. That is why the effects of tourism is so harsh, and makes you blind to what is really going on.