

د. صلاح نفيلي
E S i

Ad-Dammam University
Girls' College of Arts
Department of English
Third year
Prose (6)
د. صلاح نفيلي

The theme and Plot of George Eliot's novel

The Mill on the Floss.

Theme

Theme is the main idea in a work of art. It is usually told in abstract terms. It is sometimes mentioned directly and sometimes, it is implicitly indicated through a number of motifs in the work of art.

A motif is a minor theme that recurrently appears in the work of art. It usually emphasizes the major theme of the novel.

In the Mill on the Floss, the theme of the novel is the conflict between the then rising materio-mechanical culture and the conventional and natural way of living. This theme is manifested through the contrast between the River Floss, nature, beauty, continuation, life and love which are associated with Maggie on one hand, as opposed to the mechanism and ugliness of the noisy Mill. This mechanical way of life, from Eliot's point of view is associated with hate, death, and negation as represented by Tom.

Plot:

Plot is defined as "An author's selection and arrangement of incidents in a story to shape the novel's action and give the story a particular focus".

Discussions of plot include not only what happens in a work of art, but also how and why things happen the way they do. Incidents in a work of art are usually arranged in a way so as to arouse surprise or suspense in readers. The incidents in a work of art are usually arranged on the basis of cause and