

HOME

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Plot Summary

Jackson and his wife return from their new life in Africa to the Glasgow tenement where Jackson grew up. He nostalgically believes he still belongs there and wants to show locals "how well he's done." His wife despises the area. As the story progresses, it becomes clear the residents see them as outsiders — the place is no longer Jackson's "home." His failure to understand this creates tension and embarrassment.

[\[studylib.net\]](https://www.studylib.net)

Themes

Identity & Belonging

- Jackson's sense of home is based on nostalgia, not reality.
- He fails to see he is now an outsider.

[\[studylib.net\]](https://www.studylib.net)

Class & Social Inequality

- Contrast between his expensive car, ring, and furs...
- ...and the "brown... dirty blue... pitted with scars" tenements.

[\[knowunity.co.uk\]](https://www.knowunity.co.uk)

Memory vs Reality

- Jackson romanticises the past; the present shows urban decay.
- His wife sees the truth clearly.

Alienation

- He longs to reconnect but only embarrasses himself.
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Narrative Style

- Third-person limited (follows Jackson's perspective).
 - Flashbacks show contrast between youth and adulthood.
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Symbols

- **Black polished car:** wealth, masculinity, ego.
[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)
 - **Fur coat:** wife's desire for distance from poverty.
 - **Tenement walls:** scars of the city; emotional and physical decay.
[\[knowunity.co.uk\]](https://knowunity.co.uk)
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Key Quotations

- "huge featureless estates"
 - "pitted with scars"
 - "He wanted to tell someone how well..."
[\[quizlet.com\]](https://quizlet.com)
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