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ELA 1st

6 December 2017

Mr. Roger's Appearance vs. Reality

Agatha Christie uses the thematic idea of appearance versus reality to show the extreme character of Mr. Rogers. Throughout the novel, Rogers is described as having good and respectable service. At the end of their first dinner on Soldier island, Christie compliments Mr. and Mrs. Rogers by narrating, "[t]he food had been good, the wine perfect. Rogers waited well" (Christie 43). This evidence shows that Rogers appears to be respectable, but in reality, he has a different, darker side.

For example, after the gramophone message, he tells Mr. Lombard that he and his wife had tried to save Miss Brady by explaining, "We'd done everything possible for her...Devoted to her, we were" (Christie 69). Mr. Rogers lies to the guests about Miss Brady's murder in order to protect himself. In reality, he and his wife showed their true selfish, malicious nature by letting Miss Brady die for personal financial gain. Another example is when Mr. Rogers deceives the guests by his actions on the island.

Immediately after discovering his wife's death, he does "the best he can for breakfast single-handed" (Christie 96). Rather than taking time to express grief or even panic, he keeps his composure and continues to serve the guests.

In conclusion, this deceptive behavior shows that Rogers seeks to protect himself. He does not want to come across as suspicious to the others in being responsible for his wife's death in addition to Miss Brady's. On the island, Mr. Rogers' dutiful actions and false composure show that he is trying to cover up his true and murderous past. The character of Mr. Rogers shows a darker side to human nature where humans deceive in order to protect themselves from personal harm.