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SOCIO-POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FOOTPRINTS IN JOHN  
UPDIKE'S *RABBIT, RUN*

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**Keywords: American Dream, Socio-politics, Sex, Male Rights, and Self-actualization.**

## ABSTRACT

The author's inner voice is novels. In comparison, John Updike's widely investigated novel *Rabbit, Run* has testified to a lot of thematic studies such as the "feminist aspect," "historical study," "comic nature," "Gregory struggle," etc. But this paper aims to investigate the hidden fields of concepts and hypotheses in Updike's novel. This study aims to look at Updike and his ideas regarding my viewpoint on the human mind's workings, lifestyle, and social organization. It is an immoderate trip to investigate Updike's mind, which is deeply conscious of global issues. This paper focuses on topics related to the individual, family beliefs, and the effect of the individual on a culture that changes politics. It also illustrates Updike's resistance to robust Gregorian conventions that make the life of a citizen frivolous. Updike is enormously patriotic yet also cynical. He still works on the same plane in his quest and goal to render an individual and the country prosperous. This study seeks to describe the contrasting perspectives of John Updike's protagonist on the treatment of scenarios. It may also be used as a representation of the events of the citizens of America, their lifestyle, prosperity, and their change of mind.

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## Introduction

Novels by John Updike demonstrate the appeasement of a man because of his destiny. Nobody else has achieved as diverse as Updike to discuss male rights as a myth. His writings

talk about Americans whose lives are regulated by women from the womb to the tomb. As a critic, Granville Hicks says:

Updike is not quite skilled: he is brave, dynamic, and extreme. He lives not instantly evident in his grave because he likes to associate with the high general and light-faced materials too frequently... he is maybe the most esteemed seeker of the secrets of each time... Updike is obsessed with maintaining those experiences, not out of reverence, or because they create legitimacy to existence. His oneness enhances James's ability damaging to let any knowledge that he desired. (21)

His desire for confidence in life, including his choices to introduce the theological concepts in his quest, is exceptional. In the track of writing, through his Rabbit tetralogy, John Updike became famous and successful. The very earliest book to hit astronomical levels in literature is the Rabbit tetralogy *Rabbit, Run*. Here is an embodiment of America's middle-class life.

### **American Dream**

The novel starts in the lane, where kids play basketball. Harry is a twenty-six-year-old selling magic peeler. Harry is a powerful basketball player; even during his early teens, he was at the top of his glory. Tempted to play basketball, Harry joins the kids' club and begins competing as a real champion. The aforementioned is a note that Harry has wanted to live as a basketball player in his school days. Harry goes home following a short play. He lives in a dormitory in the region of Brewer, Pennsylvania, Mount Judge. He is married to Janice, but his mental desires are contradictory. "Rabbit" Harry's moniker no longer finds his wife, Janice, as a genius but a fool. He has a babyish son named Nelson, who is in the residence of his grandma. Janice's recklessness is exasperating Rabbit, and she reprimands him. Janice is both receptive and sensitive to the actions of her husband. She begs her spouse not to run from her.

Rabbit is moving to retrieve his motorcycle, his boy, and a tobacco pack. He walks down the lane to the Sunshine Athletic Association. His basketball coach Marty Tothero settled after being unemployed in that sodality to receive a job. Afterward, he enters his childhood home, where Miriam, his sister, feeds his son Nelson. Once again, there exists a

recollection, and Rabbit feels 'this house is cozy,' and he caught his car and drives by personally in an ending-pitch of mysticism and mental turmoil. Rabbit flies far away, but the Mount judge is whole of his heart and psyche. He moved to West Virginia much farther as he was. Never grasping how far he has gone, he remained stuck socially and physically.

Categorically, Updike strives to represent the wavering, stirring, groaning, and neurotic spirit of Rabbit. Rabbit stays in his vehicle, and he seems not to know his destination, but he drives. Such is the mindset people felt in America, particularly in the 1950s. There meant a specific and traditional route of existing in America during the 1950s. The President of the Republican Party is Dwight Eisenhower, and he promotes traditional ideals and systems in America. There is likewise a clear mandate within the family system for a hubby and wife. The family structure faced a complicated situation, and family members were suppressed between a unique code of manner and the individual's rights. The environment to survive in a relationship structure was choking. The worldly code for men is good jobs, tremendous bank stability, and a luxurious vehicle. If they held a strong aptitude for cooking, raising the youngsters, and being an outstanding home builder, they were projected as an idealist and noble ladies. The difficulty is that neither Rabbit nor his spouse Janice will consider the code of ethics for a traditional family structure. Updike has beautifully projected this wobble. Updike prepares the adjustment phase in which citizens are in dispute with social equity and growth. Such is the moment when the essential element is to stay satisfied rather than hungry. In the numerous complicated bargains, the people's family affairs are full of chaos.

Rabbit's actions, either a long drive out of Mount Judge or his acquaintance for Ruth, a prostitute, or his abhorrence towards his teammate Ronnie and his spouse's restoration, did not bring anything new for him. Like an animal tied in one edge of the string and the other point hammered at one end, the animal will feel that it stands peregrinating somewhere, but genuinely it is just in the very spot.

### **Dystopian Mindset**

Rabbit is anxious throughout the novel, and traveling is the single philosophy toward him to evade the load of family

relationships. Corporatization of feelings is devastating, and Updike covers this notion carefully through his protagonists. The Christian faith is not efficient for Rabbit because his focus is on Lucy but not on religion. Saint Lucy was a Christian saint who died when the Diocletian Persecution. Rabbit's idea of worship in the chapel is thoroughly shallow. It demonstrates how reckless and frustrated Rabbit is in the group and individuals associated. Rabbit appears to perform the anti-feminist view of using females to slake his prurience does not warrant gratitude. Here Rabbit shows the psychosocial excess to his spouse that truculently evokes her to rise. As a papa and a husband, Rabbit shirks his responsibility, and Janice also takes the look of ignoring her part as a mother.

The consequences of addiction and immoral behavior in the text are consecrated to an innocent baby's doom. Updike performs the case punctiliously. From Janice's point of view, she is not willful to drown the infant. Because of the circumstances that created the tragedy: Alcohol, Janice's mom's intimidating phone calls. This is a stage of commercialization of human emotions. A television show seen by Rabbit and Janice at the hospital while their baby is dead is an excellent example. Society has held too hooked to ads.

Rabbit is under a stable transience condition as we explore the internal dimensions of protagonist Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom. Why would he have to drive so hard? Whatever is the potential for pushing? What is persistence? There lies a straightforward solution to all these concerns. Rabbit celebrates something better than what he possesses, is waiting for him. Around the same instant, he is sneaky about deserting the ones he cares about. He races behind and forth, attempting to reach a description of equilibrium. The book *Rabbit, Run* offers readers a test and makes them remember the postulate of mediocrity. The reader might put himself into the protagonist's shoes while jeopardizing anything without a destination in his kinetics.

Hereabouts is the priority of items that helps an individual to ascend the ladder of self-empowerment. In times of self-esteem, a guy who is bound with rudimentary needs will go a little higher. This 'meta needs' is the deciding factor in an individual who has sufficient ability to climb higher in the mountain of attractions. There'll be inhibitions tossed into the air. People imply the individuals who are genuine in breaking

any conventions to take anything they think is paramount. In the fifties' background, the novel *Rabbit, Run* is set when America was unstable and chaotic.

### **American Daydream**

Updike's *Rabbit* recognizes himself as being an architect capable of molding himself. He discerns his potential optically, playing dual roles, placing him under a safer zone and granting him liberation. He realized his potential when he suited a star in basketball; his sexual attempts with Ruth helped him declare his self-actualization. Struggle within his inner self, as a basketball star, to make *Rabbit* chew his past glory. Basketball, however, cannot be played for a lifetime; *Rabbit* is potentially never wanted. He is watching for an outlet to exhaust and relive. Therefore, sex, which he could nevermore get through his alcoholic wife, was the numerous suitable alternative left for him, so *Rabbit* was coerced to probe for it. It is Updike's psychological analysis, and his protagonist is not inculcated or generated by ignominiousness. Updike astutely highlights the intricate lifestyle and the protagonist's inner struggle. In middle-class families. There occurred a continuous battle between duties and self-actualization. There is the operating vigor in the heart of *Rabbit* to frame plenty of his principles. At the whole point in time, *Rabbit* says, "Do you think God wants a waterfall to be a tree?" He is in a condition of dismay as he believes he has not reached his potential. He assumes that what he needs to become, he can become. As David D. Galloway puts it,

*Rabbit, Run* is a tale of a youthful man's fear, searching for the equal perfection and skill in life he had known on the basketball court. But there is no such clear need for *Rabbit*. As a middle-class family man and auto or a kitchen-gadget sales clerk, how performance can be accomplished are not outside his mastery: they do not affect him. Deep enough to concede the meaninglessness, *Rabbit* broke from the hypnotic mediocrity of his childhood. (51)

In the dispute against women's injustice, Updike is profoundly worried about the gregarious disorder and takes the most robust stance. Updike accepts the revolt of women and the

kinetics of feminism and claims it is sufficient to address them understand their strength, character, and setbacks. In his work, *Rabbit, Run*, Updike designs a different social relationship dimension about the married couple relationship. Rabbit and Janice are in love, and their decision to marry corresponds to their premarital romantic partnership. Both Rabbit and Janice visualize two different conceptions of marriage. Such is a core notion of a wife adorning the beauty of domesticity that flourished in the 1950s. But to convince her spouse and take responsibility for the home, Janice never illustrated the glory as a wife. It was a rich conservative culture that originated in the fifties with some restrictions on men and women's roles in a relationship structure. To create an energetic and stable community, the thought of the nuclear family came into being. The ladies of the 1950s picked up a fundamental aspect of holding up the family system's poise. The ladies were motivated to be respectable homemakers, bearing in mind the overall objective of acquiring family peace and pleasure. Sustaining the kids and husband was the ladies' extraordinary commitment, and instead of finding a profession, society persuaded them to backpedal to their residential style of life.

### **Unsuccessful Dream**

It is the idea of Updike to expose the hidden terror of citizens. A strong rift occurs between the framed rules of life of the individual and community. It is extremely dangerous to deviate and return because the community cannot cheat on the existing rules of living. It is immoral to have infidelity. Updike reflects on the fifties' adolescents who yearn to appreciate an acquaintance but entirely disagree with apportioning or shouldering the obligations. The extramarital relationship with Ruth plays spoilsport in the world of the pair in *Rabbit, Run*. They existed in a culture where they found extramarital activity to be taboo. Harry takes on 'Ruth for a vicissitude,' but the authenticity behind the affair is that his time with Ruth may not feel different from Janice's background. In Harry's place, there is a terrible fluctuation. Rabbit existing in the fifties' society genuinely wants to revolt towards traditional family values' gregarious conformity. Janice, on the other facet, is similarly liable for the family's crisis. She is addicted to liquor, and her phrenic dysfunction is affected by this addiction. A family member's issue is a tragedy for the whole household.

An abundance of something is risky, and Updike verbally demonstrates that when his former hoop trainer Tothero calls him 'his most extraordinary child, Rabbit is mentally in an upbeat mood. Harry wooed too many crowds in his early days when showcasing his athletic talents, but now he has landed in selling kitchen materials and being in an unsatisfied marital partnership. Rabbit always tries to discern between his life in hoops and everything else. Rabbit is emotionally enraged and asked himself if he is an adult failure. Updike states that throughout the fifties, virtually all people witnessed this mystification. For Rabbit, the search for identification is a stringent obstacle. When Janice is preparing to give birth at the hospital, Harry remains with her at the hospital. Reconciliation does occur, but it is tenuous. Janice and Harry cannot quit quarreling amid the arrival of a comely baby. In demanding conditions, that is a short-term exit policy that Harry adopts. Not only does it influence Harry, but Janice still becomes an alcoholic. The role of Harry is a reflection of the American era.

### **Impulsive Attitude**

Responsibility is the wrong word in the dictionary of Harry. Rabbit's attitude towards women is not soul-oriented but sex-oriented. Feminists take a quick look at this posture of the Protagonist in the novel. In *Rabbit, Run*, Updike poses a dilemma that results in ambiguity. Harry perpetuates to long for liberation without responsibility. His mind does not accept a nine to five job or the freedom to run. Throughout the novel, Rabbit's quandary is unsolvable. He is not ready to surrender; however, it is painful to desecrate his illimitable running for nothing. No concept can fit in his wisdom forever. The zigzagging effect is abundant in his role. A guy has to build his life outward from a job he can do. Rabbit, haplessly, has nothing he can do except to run, and so he fashions his life on running to keep his insight of self-worth alive. The sexual encounters are consequential to him, but there is none resoluteness to stay with his partners' individual. Harry's character is an embodiment of ambiguity that Updike visually perceives at the core of American middle-class life. Rabbit's refusal to sanction society to absorb the self may be the stout-heartedness not to give in. Still, it is the hero's intuition to distinguish between what is right gregariously is erroneous personally. This theory rules his character. When Rabbit was

on his way back home from work, the playground looks more alluring than his dormitory. He feels his espousment has appeared in disaster in his lifetime. School, family, work, church, crowding, sex, all commix together in Rabbit's mind. At sundry moments in the novel, he feels 'pinned,' trapped by a 'shark,' 'manipulated' and 'threatened.' He feels liberation is like oxygen in an individual's life. Still, he feels suffocated with obligations towards his family. If he gainsays that oxygen, which is his instinctive desideratum for liberation, he knows pretty well that the net will engulf him. The catch he verbalizes is his external circumstances.

Rabbit binds with his old momentum as Rabbit plays basketball with the kids because Harry wants to remain in the yore, but at the age of 26, he continues to worry about his life is stalled. He thinks like his days of salad are finished. Rabbit feels discarded, and selling magic peelers is the only achievement required of him. It is definitely not enough for him. Rabbit and his spouse Janice attend a TV program, 'The Mouseketeers,' in the novel. Janice enjoys the exhibition without any feeling, just quiet. On the opposite side, Rabbit earnestly seeks guidance from the Mouseketeer. The dialogue between Janice and Harry speaks about the psychological outcome of opinion between the pair.

'Huh, Huh? I dropped my pack into a garbage can on the way home. I am giving it up.' He wonders how someone with his stomach on edge the way it is might think of smoking. Finally, Janice stares at him. 'You have thrown it into a trash can! Oh. Holy Mo. You are not drinking, and you are not smoking now. Becoming a saint, what are you doing?' (10)

### **Postmodernist understandings**

A great Mouseketeer has emerged, Jimmie, a matured man wearing black circle paws. Rabbit follows him; he loves him. He hopes to hear something useful from him in his line of trade. Jimmie's sayings and proverbs are so real. proverbs notify us what to do, "Comprehend Thyself, a thoughtful old Greek once stated, straight out through the glass." (10) Respect yourself. Now, boys and ladies, what does this mean? Be what you are, it says. Do not pretend to be next door to Sally, Johnny, or Fred; be yourself. God would not want a tree to be a stone or a flower to be a waterfall. God gives a particular skill



to each of us. Janice and Rabbit are unnaturally still; both are Christians. The name of God makes them feel bad.

God needs some of us to become physicists, some of us to become musicians, some of us to become physicians and trapeze artists, and some of us to become firemen. He also offers each of us the unique abilities to grow these things as outstanding as we strive to improve them. Boys and ladies, we have learned to manage. You know yourself. Study the skills to recognize, and then practice to create them. It is the process of being satisfied. (10)

The key to the advice is not that it emanates from television but the musketeer's mention of God. Harry feels that only a tree that represents upward kineticism can be a tree. A tree can never become a waterfall reflecting downward kineticism. Rabbit understands that if Almighty does not choose to eat a waterfall to be a tree, so he's not going to eat Harry to exchange kineticism upward for a downward plunge to give up his individuality to a role defined by gregariousness. So he is running.

Harry Angstrom has a circumscribed value system. Amid the intricacies of life, a tedious job, a dreary wife, a dingy dorm, it is too critical to handle for him. Martha Heimberg says:

The heroes are mostly in their forties and are usually involved in an affair of guilt-ridden love in which they ought to pick between a competent, motherly wife with children who are touchingly vulnerable and an equally compelling mistress whose sexual powers they are unwilling or unable to reject and forget. (5)

He understands the contrast between the correct manner of gregarious prospect and the excellent form of individual need in the next portion of the novel. His intuition acknowledges that he needs to obtain the most reliable way, not the wise way. Society may not revere his decision to run from his difficulties, but alternatively, one must wonder what he can do.

### **Social collaboration**

Updike distinguishes his fiction by directing on the excitement and adventures of an individual in mundane everyday life. Eccles's view of Harry is respectable and eminent in the novel. He sees outwardly that Harry is a personality who does not understand what he needs and does not relish what he

has. Eccles directs Rabbit to the structures concerning elegance's kinetics; he asks him to backpedal to his quarters and give his family value. Eccles proceeds to the degree of calling Harry a "massively narrow-minded individual," a fearful person who manages only to watch over his egotistic impulses.

We could discover a dispute between his inner longing and outside circumstances when we split down the mental part of Harry Angstrom. He maintains his kineticism via the net, relying on feeling and nature for jubilation. It is an ongoing battle between duty and freedom in the protagonist's brain, and it makes him choose the deed of running to avoid both.

Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom is the protagonist of Updike's, seeing his motherland and American culture through various visual perceivers. These eyes belong to a mundane blue-collar guy who considers the world he sees as 'second rate.' *Rabbit, Run* is a portrait of America in the 1950s and its values. This event was a period when the cost of a Chinese dinner for four people was fair. For \$110 per month, a dormitory is available. The North American cityscape, according to Updike, has become a wasteland. Authentic communication between human beings and nature, neighbors, etc., is impoverished. The joy of living has disappeared, and we can see this in John Updike's characters. In *Rabbit, Run*, Harry, the protagonist, remained in a dream; he did not believe that he was no longer a basketball star. He cannot figure out his aging. He strives to exist in a realm of illusions instead of living his life. He tries to follow and keep running with his instincts. This event is the nature of youth in America in the 1950s and is considered an American middle-class dream.

### **Materialism**

It was possible to find the unfolding of incipient culture in the novel *Rabbit, Run*. Janice keeps watching TV and becomes addicted to it. It shows us around the exordium (plonker box) of television sets in so many American families. It dominated people's minds in the second half of the nineties. The idea of marriage has had a notable impact on people's lives. This event reflected the mindset of the characters of the period. Sex was considered taboo before the beginning of the Sexual Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s. The representative of the ignorant minds of the era is Rabbit. His lust seems to drive him

nearby to the brink of insanity at times. All the trademarks of the age in which Harry lived are the considerably voluminous prospects of middle-class families, the values that Rabbit has to adorn, and the challenges of a broken marriage. In *Rabbit, Run*, Updike's pointer still prevails without any transmutation in American society.

Updike projects the questionable image of civilization, and it does not always match the authenticity of what is happening behind closed doors. The concept of sex and adultery is an unpleasant problem to discuss. Updike poses an essential question in *Rabbit, Run*: What is more prominent, the individual's values or society? Updike manages with remarkable precision to capture the mood of America's times. He never concludes, but he puts it directly through the sound of 'Harry' of his nature. It is an indirect Updike designation about the 1950s people. Updike's social concerns and projections resisted the period's conservative, narrow mindset. Is everybody in his or her life facing this fiery crisis? After reading the novel, this is the question everyone asks himself or herself. The contradictions encountered in the society of the nineteen fifties are the contradictions highlighted in Rabbit's life. *Rabbit, Run* novel is a fight between responsibility and the problems of existence. Both the small, mundane aspects of everyday life are addressed in the story. Rabbit is an ordinary character who struggles with the dilemmas of existence. However, the feeling is decadent and exhibits America's souls' equally equivalent struggle in the nineteen fifties.

### **Social Impacts on Individual Life**

A colossal obnubilate topic surrounds *Rabbit, Run* shows the notion of person versus society. When we investigate Rabbit's existence physically, which shows he is an American artifact of the 1950s, a country consumed with advertisement, consumerism, and competitiveness on Madison Avenue, and not much space for free cerebrating. It is asserted that the car in which one wanders is the emblem of rank in America. Rabbit's quest did not carry him anywhere, it seems a momentary escape, and his attention returned to his struggles as time goes by. Cars, convenience stores, tv sets, golf courses, and basketball are all American life components that are mundane. As Martin Amis projects,

Life, individual citizens, tend to emphasize their product's approval quite keenly, as though most of us have little opportunity for the workers. Updike, who wants novels to assume in 'improvement' and a new future, basically states that with a text, instead of a spurning of it, we understand an approximation of fact,' and scores them accordingly. (368-69)

The people of America recognize the creation of TV as a boon. It is recognized as an artistic medium that disseminates data. In the book, we can physically see Janice become more familiar with television than cleaning the kitchen. Rabbit's approach to keeping his house tidy, though, symbolizes his dissatisfaction with his messy life. The puritanical approach of the inhabitants of the 1950s made Rabbit a disgruntled human. What is the solution to the problems in Rabbit's life? Is that because of culture or his failure to get accustomed to society's norms? As Updike leaves the reader to extend his decision, the query seems unanswerable. As exhibited in Rabbit's character; a continuous battles between the inner self and the outside environment. Updike's efforts to preserve the community as he optically discerns without any mitigation or adjustment are like American society's mirror. In one case, when Rabbit gets news that Janice is about to give birth, he appears to her side dutifully. This indicates that his inner sensibility has not gone from citizens' hearts in the 1950s; this sort of oscillation between responsibility and self-interest is visible. In his book, Updike tried to project this feeling of social concern. To articulate the narrative, Updike utilizes historical texts and mundane descriptions of everyday life. He insists on Rabbit's internal noetic conception. Sex, appetite, wealth, and other social energies lie underneath the covering of society's citizens. Updike's novel serves as a trigger.

Humans are so materialistic, and they evaluate a person based on their belongings. The Code of Ethics has become vacuous. In Harry's life, politics played a significant role. The Kennedy brothers' contribution, the landing of Neil Armstrong on the moon, the cold war between the USA and the U.S.S.R, and democratic developments played a significant role in the 1950s. In the text, Updike expresses this by Harry's character. Knowingly or unknowingly, to decide the track of his destiny, Harry is taken for a trip by powerful political forces. Nixon and the Watergate controversy generated a deep distrust of honesty in people's minds. The allegations of wrongdoing against legislators attempted to shake the primary instinct of credence inside the people.

Updike introduced or sought to predict what he mentally imagined in *Rabbit, Run*, to critique the novel's gender politics. The bloodshed in both World Wars was unparalleled and horrible. Industrialization and urbanization of American society make a trend. Dwight Eisenhower, the Republican nominated President, embodied the conservative ideals that were common at the era. Rabbit chose the conservative electorate to be fortified. However, with Harry, the source of conservatives and their resilience is destitute. As it is the consistency of a nationalist, Harry is not a dominant personality.

He still seems melancholic, grumbling about his former fame, at the peak of the political chaos, such as the Vietnam War and the administration of President Nixon. The result is so significantly immense that Harry is situated in a position of mystification. When a specific Code of Conduct is established for men and women, it is a community. The political pressure fell on Harry and Janice's shoulders because both do not confirm the fundamentals of traditional life. The representatives of the period are them. The souls were choked by the conservative values prevalent in the 1950s. Harry rebels against the accepted norms of society in the 1950s, unable to resist the pressure. For a mundane individual to live a decent life, the political climate is not conducive.

Updike strives to carry out society's authenticity and the projected image below the closed doors. This is the situation of many families trapped amid social and legislative transformation, like Rabbit. Like Rabbit, in the 1950s, many people in America were placed in a middle-class position. We assume that his melancholy explanation is extra or less an existential dilemma when we examine Rabbit's character. It is, of course, in the hearts and minds of all the people of that age. It is too strict to be followed, though.

It is an era in which nearly all professions will see American influence. Americanism has grown everywhere, be it commerce, music, or technological advances. In the automobile industry and housing industries, there are innovations. In the 1950s, the advent of broadcasting played a significant part. People started thinking in the dining room of their dormitories about political and cultural items in the system. The 1950s was an era in which age-old ideas and technological advances are sandwiched amongst individuals. The war in Vietnam is another significant global instability that has had a mighty influence on America's people. Americans disapproved of the part of their government in the battle. The world's economy suffered a

significant loss when over \$150,000 million was expended by the U.S., and over 58,000 American lives were destroyed.

### Conclusion

American society is split into two variables and philosophies throughout the 1960s: one with the conventional notion of civilization and the other with the counterculture of disgruntled men, hippies, and marginalized young people. Harry is amid these two societies that reside in society. The result is so clumsily heavy that Harry started to query all current principles and fine-tuned his lifestyle. The adherents of counter culture are expressive and imaginative. *Rabbit, Run* also addresses the politicization of relationships, which in the 1960s gave meaning to ideals rather than specific longings and the sexual revolution. In the text, it is apparent that Harry marries Janice, his pregnant lover, who thinks about the thorough effects of sexual emancipation. *Rabbit, Run* also addresses the wealthy yet alienated 1950s Americans who prefer spiritual warmth and lack of spirituality. The Rabbit was puzzled by the political climate, societal shifts, and technological progress of the era. He picked to run aimlessly, ignoring obligations in the journey of longing for something new. As a critic Yves le pellet aptly observes:

Much of the appeal of Updike's protagonists in general, and Harry Angstrom in particular, is that we can never really foresee the inconclusive ending to which their inconsistencies will take them, close over them as we might sound. We know nothing where Rabbit is going after *Rabbit, Run*. Maybe it is because of this ultimate mystery that his presence leaves our inner sensibilities with everlasting impact. (94-109)

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