

Conclusion. Wells's major contributions to the science fiction genre was his approach, which he referred to as his "new system of ideas". In his opinion, the author should always strive to make the story as credible as possible, even if both the writer and the reader knew certain elements are impossible, allowing the reader to accept the ideas as something that could really happen, today referred to as "the plausible impossible" and "suspension of disbelief". While neither invisibility nor time travel was new in speculative fiction, Wells added a sense of realism to the concepts which the readers were not familiar with. He conceived the idea of using a vehicle that allows an operator to travel purposely and selectively forwards or backwards in time.

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THE CONCEPT OF HOME AND BELONGING IN WILLA CATHER'S NOVELS

Daminova Sevara

2119 group Uzbekistan state university of world languages

English Philology faculty

Supervisor: Saliyeva Surayyo

***Abstract.** The aim of this article is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the representation of home and belonging in Willa Cather's novels, drawing connections between her literary works and broader cultural, historical, and social contexts. Through critical inquiry and scholarly research, we will deepen our*

understanding of Cather's thematic concerns and the ways in which they reflect and shape our understanding of the human condition.

Keywords. *Novel, literature, author, narratives, writer.*

Introduction: Exploring the theme of home and belonging in literature unveils a deeply rooted aspect of human experience that resonates across cultures and time periods. Whether depicted as a physical place, a state of mind, or a sense of connection, the concept of home and belonging carries significant emotional, social, and psychological implications for characters and readers alike. In this essay, we will delve into the multifaceted significance of home and belonging in literature, examining how authors use these themes to explore identity, culture, memory, and the human condition. The theme of home and belonging occupies a central place in literature, offering a rich tapestry of narratives that explore the complexities of human experience. Whether depicted as a physical space, a cultural identity, a state of mind, or a longing for connection, the concept of home and belonging resonates deeply with readers across cultures and generations. Through its exploration of identity, culture, memory, and displacement, literature illuminates the universal human desire to find a place where one truly belongs—a place to call home. Home and belonging in Willa Cather's novels is a pertinent and timely topic that resonates with contemporary readers.

Biographical and contextual background of Willa Cather

Willa Sibert Cather was an American writer known for her novels of life on the Great Plains, including *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Ántonia*. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 for *One of Ours*, a novel set during World War I. Cather and her family moved from Virginia to Webster County, Nebraska, when she was nine years old. They later settled in the town of Red Cloud. After graduating from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Cather moved to Pittsburgh for ten years, supporting herself as a magazine editor and high school English teacher. At the age of 33, she moved to New York City, her primary home for the rest of her life, though she also traveled widely and spent considerable time at her summer residence on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick. Cather achieved

recognition as a novelist of the frontier and pioneer experience. She wrote of the spirit of those settlers moving into the western states, many of them European immigrants in the nineteenth century. Common themes in her work include nostalgia and exile. A sense of place is an important element in Cather's fiction: physical landscapes and domestic spaces are for Cather dynamic presences against which her characters struggle and find community. Cather's lifelong conservative politics, appealing to critics such as Mencken, Randolph Bourne, and Carl Van Doren, soured her reputation with younger, often left-leaning critics like Hicks and Edmund Wilson. Despite this critical opposition to her work, Cather remained a popular writer whose novels and short story collections continued to sell well. In 1931 *Shadows on the Rock* was the most widely read novel in the United States, and *Lucy Gayheart* became a bestseller in 1935. Comparative analysis of Willa Cather's works on home and belonging with other literary works reveals both similarities and differences in how various authors explore these themes. By examining the approaches taken by different writers, we gain a deeper understanding of the universal human experiences of longing, identity, and connection to place.

Willa Cather was an American author known for her novels depicting life on the American frontier. Born in Virginia in 1873, Cather moved with her family to Nebraska at a young age, where she developed a deep connection to the landscape and people of the Midwest. Her experiences growing up in the rural Midwest would go on to influence much of her writing, as she often drew upon her own memories and observations of the region. Cather's work is characterized by its vivid descriptions of the American landscape, its complex characters, and its exploration of themes such as immigration, identity, and the passage of time. Throughout her career, Cather received critical acclaim for her novels, including "My Ántonia," "O Pioneers!," and "Death Comes for the Archbishop. "The concept of home as a symbolic and emotional space is a recurring theme in literature, art, and philosophy. Home is often seen as a place of comfort, security, and belonging, where individuals can be themselves and feel a sense of connection

to their surroundings. In literature, the idea of home is often used to explore themes of identity, memory, and nostalgia.

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BLACK COMMUNITY IN RALPH ELLISON'S NOVEL " INVISIBLE MAN"

Eshonova Guljakhon Ravshanbekovna,

Uzbekistan State World Languages University. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

Scientific supervisor: **B.Ashurov,**

Uzbekistan State World Languages University. Tashkent. Uzbekistan

***Abstract.** Ralph Ellison's novel "Invisible Man" explores the experiences of African Americans in society, particularly in the mid-20th century. The protagonist of the novel is a young Black man who grapples with issues of identity, visibility, and marginalization in a predominantly white society. Within the novel, the Black community plays a significant role in shaping the protagonist's understanding of himself and his place in the world. The community is depicted as diverse and complex, with individuals holding a range of beliefs and perspectives. Some characters embody resilience and strength in the face of systemic racism, while others perpetuate harmful stereotypes or internalized anti-Blackness.*

***Keywords.** Problems in society, discrimination, marginalization, racism, resilience, stereotypes.*