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Author Hui-chen Lin
Author's Email Address No Public.
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Abstract Abstract

This thesis starts with a description of Stephen Crane and his first novel Maggie. It then looks closely at the text in terms of its plot, characterization and imagistic strains including animals, religion, color and the environment. A Chinese translation of the whole book follows.

This thesis asserts that Maggie portrays life in the stunted, wasted and degraded slum tenements with its ironic plot filled with false morality, debilitating seduction and ruthless rejection. Maggie is a victim of circumstance which is an insurmountable force that determines destiny. Crane's uncompromising realism of socioeconomic determinism--the environment molds lives--is made manifest in his naturalistic writing style, which marks this book Maggie as one of the great works in American literature.
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