

<Outline>

Thesis: Although the theme of secret is primarily used to show the unstable relationships between the characters during the early phase in *Into This World*, Sybil Baker further develops the role of the secret dynamically to show the process of disconnection to connection in each individual character and also as a whole story in the novel's finale.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Attention grabber: A puppet master is a person who controls his puppets by pulling the strings attached to the main parts of the body.
 - B. Sybil Baker's *Into This World* is also a story which develops around characters, who try to control their lives while also trying to tug on the string of other puppets for control or peace as puppet masters.
 - C. The secret acts like a pair of scissors that severs the strings which attach the puppets to the master and also the puppets to each other.
 - D. However, the role of the secret in the novel is not only limited to illuminating the fragility and disconnection between characters.
- II. Wayne is a significant figure in the novel with who the secret develops.
 - A. Wayne's conscience about bad or good and his determination to stay faithful to his wife, Bonnie is still clear when he first comes to Korea
 - B. However, after much time of inner conflict and fierce battling he gives in and starts a relationship with Sunny.
 - Wayne tries to rationalize his relationship with Sunny by labeling it as protection. This desperate rationalization was the start of a new family with Sunny and their daughter Mina and ultimately the secret that severed his strings attached to his family with Bonnie and with Sunny.
 - C. The puppet master Wayne tries to tug on his string attached to Mina but the secret had already cut the connection and his untruthful and insincere worries for Mina fail to reach her.
- III. Wayne's secret breaks an important connection in Sunny's life.
 - A. Despite her fragile appearance she was a girl who could make a difficult decision for her family's survival.
 - B. . Although Sunny gave Mina not to a complete stranger but Mina's biological father Wayne , Wayne's secret requires the complete severance of the bond between Mina and Sunny.
 - C. . The force of the secret made Sunny a puppet master, who could not bring balance nor happiness to her puppet.
- IV. Moreover, Bonnie, who is an undeveloped character in the novel, but as Wayne's wife and as a mother to Allison and Mina the secret has a significant impact on her life also.
 - A. Bonnie is pictured as a mother who is able to love both Allison and Mina.
 - B. Finally facing Sunny and Wayne together, Bonnie breaks down and admits to Allison that she knew of Wayne's lies.
 - C. However, by letting the secret be a part of her life, it acted as a translucent barrier between her and Mina.
 - D. Bonnie is not a controlling puppet master, she is a character who strives for peace and harmony between her puppets, although she knows of the damaging effects of the secret in her family.

- V. The damaging effects of the secret are most well displayed through Mina's life. She was a baby whose birth was marked with a secret
- A. She fought for her identity which she could not find hidden behind Wayne's secret.
 - B. This feeling of deprivation and dire longing for the truth made her grasp at what a Korean girl, who was the closest figment of the country Korea around her, offered.
- V-I. The structure of the secret and its impact on Mina's life is very similar to that found in *Sophocles' Oedipus Rex*.
- A. Like Mina, Oedipus is determined to find out the truth concerning King Laius' death.
 - B. By killing his father and marrying his mother, Oedipus' life, like his foot, had become unbalanced and irrevocably distorted.
 - C. . However, in *The Way into Life*, the role of the secret is not limited to moving a character from the state of prosperity and happiness to a state of misery. Although initially disabled by the force of the secret in her life, Mina's quest for the truth ultimately frees her from the damaging impacts of the secret and helps her find true balance and happiness in her life.
- VI. Contrary to Mina, Allison is a puppet master and also a character who loves to manipulate and control.
- A. However, her ability to control and manipulate spins out of her hands by the force of secrets.
 - B. The affectionate bond Wayne and Allison had, represented by the shared memories of the television program Hee Haw, slowly begins to dissolve until it reaches a point where Wayne is no longer interested in Hee Haw.
 - C. The other secret is instigated by Allison. After Allison's love for Ray is rejected, she secretly has an abortion.
- VII. The role of the secret, symbolizing disconnection and loss of control in *Into This World* changes to a bonding and healing role as the characters converge in Korea where the secret originated
- A. The connection and healing begins with Allison. After receiving a letter from Ray, who was furious because Allison exposed his infidelity and faults, Allison finally discovers the lies she had been telling herself.
 - B. . In the face of truth, Wayne and Bonnie are finally able to release the suppressed feelings that they had and look back on their actions and relationships free from the fear of exposing or even admitting the existence of a secret.
 - C. The secret and the search for the truth have uncovered the existence of Woo-sung who was thought to be dead
- VIII. Conclusion: Sybil Bakes has effectively developed the theme of secret throughout the story to show the change in relationships and characters themselves changing from the state of disconnection and fragility to the beginning of connection and forgiveness.
- A. The secret that Wayne fostered ever since a cold winter in the 1970s in Korea finally ends by giving back the puppets their identity, the puppet masters their ability to connect with their puppets and blessing the new relationship of Mina and the finding of a lost relationship.