

## The Scarlet Ibis

Author James Hurst, in his short story, The Scarlet Ibis, repeatedly illustrates his theme <sup>NO</sup> that people who are different are judged and destroyed by society. One way he conveys this is through his use of first-person point of view. By telling the story from the perspective of Brother, Hurst establishes the emotions, reactions, and motives of someone who is personally involved in the events of the story. <sup>OR</sup> The author portrays Brother's perception of Doodle in one scene by painting Brother's feeling of embarrassment because of Doodle's inability to walk and writes that Brother "set out to teach him" (418). Identifying Brother's emotions in this particular moment delineates Brother's judgment of Doodle's difference, specifically his ability, or lack thereof, to walk. <sup>OR</sup> Through first person perspective, humanity sees Brother's true motive behind teaching Doodle to walk. <sup>OR</sup> This helps to invalidate the family's view of Brother's actions when they thank him later in the story for teaching Doodle to walk, believing that he was motivated by love and selflessness. <sup>OR</sup> In this specific event and throughout the story, seeing inside Brother's head shows, <sup>OR</sup> firsthand, the judgment and greed behind his actions, when these actions might seem selfless and loving without a look into Brother's thoughts. <sup>OR</sup> And, if not given access to Brother's conscious through first person perspective, humanity would be less able to pull the author's theme out of <sup>NO</sup> the story. Clearly, Brother is the equivalent of society, and Doodle the equivalent of a person who is different. <sup>OR</sup> So the theme becomes society, or Brother, judges and destroys Doodle, or people

who are different. Repeatedly, Brother's thoughts are judgemental or detrimental to Doodle and, sometimes, are even purely for the purpose of causing Doodle hardship. Brother's selfish and explicitly sabotaging intents are, in the author's mind, a direct reflection of how humanity as a whole thinks and intends.