

Statement of Purpose

The effects of repressed women and their identity struggle was a colossal issue during the 1960s. The country experienced a cumbersome disconnect between African Americans and Whites making it exceptionally difficult for biracial individuals to embrace their identity. By utilizing colloquial words such as “Black” and “Negro” Kennedy acknowledges, from an inside perspective, the discriminatory disconnect prevailing in the country. The honesty of Kennedy was seen to be offensive by many sparking much controversy and criticism of her play. Additionally, the protagonist, Sarah, possesses many alter-egos which represent the chaos occurring within her mind. Each alter-ego represents a different concern and reason for her identity crisis. To accurately portray societal norms and mirror Sarah’s thoughts, a character in the play performed with “wild” hair. As it was considered the norm to put oneself together before going on stage, many people felt that this act was disrespectful. Despite the criticism, Kennedy attempted to honestly illustrate women’s struggles based on her own experiences. The criticism she received for her courage supports the fact that there is a large discriminatory disconnect in society.

The battle with identity certainly still exists today but the issue is further alleviated due to the progression in the country that eliminates some prejudice. Strong individuals have fought to decrease racial injustice for themselves as well as their entire community. These individuals have greatly impacted the country changing the way people view others. Today, African Americans are equally as prominent as whites and biracial individuals are becoming increasingly more common. Sarah would be much more able to receive adequate help today than she was during the 1960s.