

Q. How does Richard treat white people as opposed to blacks? Is there a different judgment between his attitudes to each group?

OR

Consider Black Boy as an autobiographical novel.

Ans: Richard Nathaniel Wright was an African-American author of powerful, sometimes controversial novels, short stories and non-fiction. Much of his literature concerned racial themes. His work helped redefine discussions of race relations in America in the mid-20th century.

Richard Wright was a fervent Communist and his books explore the theory of human behavior determined by environment. "Black Boy" marks the culmination of Richard Wright's best-known period, his so-called Marxist period. Black children must never strive to be more than black children; if they do, not only will they suffer a terrible fate, but their families will as well. Richard Wright could not, from his earliest years, tolerate this repression, and Black Boy is the chronicle of his alienation, not only from white society, but from his own people. The protest here, is both personal and metaphysical ; a cry of anguish in the face of the human condition.

As the title implies, "Black Boy" is as profoundly American as it is a distinctly black chronicle. It is a powerful story of Wright's development into a dynamic individual. Throughout the work, we see Richard observes the deleterious effects of racism not only as it affects relations between whites and blacks, but also relations among blacks themselves. Wright's critique of racism in America includes a critique of the black community itself—specifically the black folk community that is unable or unwilling to educate him properly. Richard struggles against a dominant white culture—both in the South and in the North—and even against his own black culture. Neither white nor black culture knows how to handle a brilliant, strong-willed, self-respecting black man. Richard perceives that his options are either to conform or to wilt. Needless to say, neither option satisfies him, so he forges his own middle path.

Black Boy, autobiography by Richard Wright, published in 1945 and considered to be one of his finest works. The book is sometimes considered a fictionalized autobiography or an autobiographical novel because of its use of novelistic techniques. Black Boy is also called a classic of American autobiography, a subtly crafted narrative of Richard Wright's journey from innocence to experience.