
Humanistic Portrayal of Buddy Dog In William Bruce Cameron's *A Dog's Journey*

Mr. R. Logesh Kanna¹, I-M.A-English, Muthayammal College of Arts and Science, Rasipuram.

Ms.A.Manjula², Assistant Professor of English, Muthayammal College of Arts and Science, Rasipuram.

Article Received: 22/01/2024

Article Accepted: 20/02/2024

Published Online: 22/02/2024

DOI:10.47311/IJOES.2024.6.2.116

Abstract:

American literature is a wide range of works by American authors representing the country's history, cultural variety, and economic context. It explores complex human and animal relationships, experiences, and feelings. *Humanistic Portrayal theory* is a narrative method that promotes nonhuman characters' emotional development, self-awareness, and comprehension of human emotions. *A Dog's Journey* tells the touching story of a loyal dog who has lived many lives and gone on many adventures of fearing essential lessons about love, friendship, and self-discovery. *A Dog's Journey* explores love, loss, and the bond between humans and animals. The story highlights dogs' unconditional love and loyalty to their human families, often teaching them valuable life lessons. This paper aims at the portrayal of dogs as humanistic characters and highlights the interconnectivity of life events on both humans and animals.

Keywords: Humanistic, Adventures, Unconditional Love, Lesson.

Introduction

Literature is the collection of written works that convey ideas, feelings, and experiences through language, such as novels, poetry, plays, essays, and short tales. It reflects human society, culture, and history, offering insights into the human condition, social ideals, and personal perspectives. Authors use literature to create emotions, encourage thought, explore new words, and build empathy. It is a timeless medium for storytelling, conserving cultural history, and influencing communal consciousness over centuries.

American literature is a wide range of works by American authors representing the country's history, cultural variety, and economic context. It discusses

identity, freedom, justice, pursuing the American Dream, and race, class, gender, and power issues.

Animal literature, also known as animal writing or animal-themed literature, is a genre that uses animals as main characters or subjects in literary works. It explores the complex relationship between humans and animals, their experiences, and their feelings. It addresses human-animal links, animal rights, behavior, and ethical treatment. American literature, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and essays, challenges anthropocentric viewpoints and promotes empathy for nonhuman species. It addresses universal themes like love, loss, survival, and resilience while promoting environmental protection.

William Bruce Cameron is an American writer famous for his powerful stories and investigations of the human-animal bond. His novels, such as *A Dog's Purpose* and *Journey*, look at love, devotion, and redemption themes, often from dogs' eyes. His work appeals to readers of all ages, focusing on universal themes such as friendship, family, and the search for meaning. Cameron's evocative prose and relatable characters leave an indelible impression on audiences worldwide, proving storytelling's forever worth.

Humanistic Portrayal Of Buddy

In literature, humanistic portrayal theory is a narrative method that promotes nonhuman characters' emotional development, self-awareness, and comprehension of human emotions. It promotes the value of personal growth and life skills such as empathy, forgiveness, and sacrifice. The novel explores time, love, unexpected encounters, and fate. Characters' related experiences explain to readers how to appreciate the cycle of life and the value of personal development. This method enables readers to reflect on their own lives and experiences, which promotes empathy and knowledge of the human condition. Overall, humanistic portrayals inspire empathy and understanding.

In William Bruce Cameron's excellent novel, *A Dog's Journey*, the lead dog, Buddy, journeys through several lives and learns important lessons about love, compassion, and understanding. Buddy's humanistic portrayal emphasizes his emotional development, self-awareness, and knowledge of human emotions. Buddy's experiences and lessons connect throughout the novel and play a vital part in his personal growth.

Buddy's early life as a beloved and spent dog forms the foundation for his character development. He develops a great bond with his young owner, Ethan, and sister, CJ. The connection paves the way for Buddy's development into a wise, sensitive dog. As the plot advances, Buddy learns to connect with humans and other animals, which changes his personality and makes him more humanistic.

Buddy's humane portrayal includes the concept of rebirth. The tale focuses on the idea of dogs being reborn after their lives on Earth. Buddy can grow and learn from his previous experiences, which is a humanistic approach to personal development and self-improvement.

Buddy's humanistic character has protective, solid impulses. He goes to considerable lengths to safeguard the safety and happiness of those he loves,

demonstrating the depth of his emotional intelligence. Buddy also learns about the power of forgiveness during his journey. This Lesson is crucial for his growth and development because it teaches him the value of compassion and its impact on human relationships.

The novel highlights the importance of family, both human and canine. Buddy's understanding of family relationships and willingness to defend them show his human nature. Buddy encounters chance meetings as he moves through different lives, which leads him to acquire valuable lessons and meet important people. This promotes the idea that life's events, both positive and negative, determine who we develop into, which is a humanistic approach to personal development.

The story sheds light on the importance of sacrifice. Buddy discovers the importance of self-sacrifice for the greater good as he travels. This indicates his grasp of selflessness and the value of putting others' needs ahead of his own, which is a humanistic attitude.

Buddy ages and lives several lives, highlighting the passage of time and the changes it brings. This represents humanist trust in the value of personal development and accepting life's inevitable changes. Another key topic in the novel is the power of love, with Buddy experiencing several types of love throughout his life. This illustrates the humanistic belief that love is an essential part of human existence that impacts our lives.

The role of fate is also discussed in the novel, implying that fate enormously affects our lives. Buddy's journey demonstrates that our positive and negative experiences are interconnected and have a role in our evolution. Buddy discovers the value of second opportunities throughout his adventure. His ability to learn from his problems and be given a second chance to make things right shows his humanistic belief in redemption and the importance of learning from our mistakes.

The tale reveals how human decisions affect not just their own lives but also the daily activities of animals. This exhibits the concept that our actions have consequences and that we must consider the well-being of others while taking them. Another critical component of the story is the connection between humans and animals, focusing on the solid affinity and the significance of empathy and understanding for all living things.

Conclusion

A Dog's Journey portrays Buddy, the lead dog, in a humanistic light by spotlighting his emotional development, self-awareness, and deep knowledge of human emotions. Buddy has learned important lessons about empathy, forgiveness, family, sacrifice, love, and personal development over his many lifetimes. The tale highlights the interconnectivity of life events, the importance of second chances, forgiveness, and the effect of human decisions on humans and animals. Finally, this paper teaches about the circle of life and the significance of personal development, self-awareness, and empathy for all living species.

References:

<https://www.irejournals.com/formatedpaper/1704307.pdf>

<https://www.bookreporter.com/authors/w-bruce-cameron>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Dog%27s_Journey