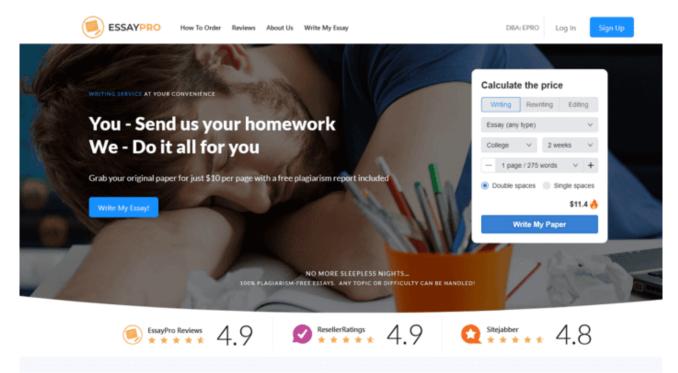
## John Updike's A&P



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John Updike's A&PMany of the events that take place in John Updike's "A&P" would nothave happened had the town lived under a Marxist society. Marxism is asocioeconomic ideal where all people work for the good of thecommunity and is characterized by not having any social classdistinctions. The division of Classes in "A&P" is very apparent, especially between Sammy, the protagonist and first person narrator, and the three girls, one of the three antagonists, who walk into thestore during the exposition. There is also a cast disparity betweenSammy and Lengel, the store manager and another antagonist (along withsociety, who complete the three). A distinction is also noticeablebetween the three girls and the rest of the shoppers in the convenience store. The story is told entirely in flashback and is set in a grocery storein a town north of Boston, Massachusetts during one Thursday insummer. During the exposition we learn that Sammy is working one of the cash registers. Later in the story we are told that he is 19 yearsold and by his description of how his parents treat company we canassume he comes from a middle class family. We are lead to believeduring Sammys narration that the three girls, on the other hand, come from a rich or high societal background. The way Queenie is describedby Sammy as having prima-donna legs and walking slow while holdingherself straight paints a portrait of a high society woman. The factthat Sammy calls her prim twice also leads us in that direction. Sammylooks up to Queenie because she is

different and places her on ahigher level than the "sheep" in the store. When Sammy quits his job, creating a conflict between he and Lengel, his motive is to become the..... middle of paper ......Is us she wasembarrassed by the whole situation-where she felt out of place because of her high stature in society. These scenes, of course, would neverhave taken place in Marxist cultures because the government would haveprovided for it's citizens and the girls would have never foundthemselves being humiliated in front of a lesser class of people.All the conflicts that take place in Updike's "A&P" would have beenavoided in a Marxist society. Lengel and Sammy would have never had aconfrontation because Sammy would not have been trying to impress ahigh society girl. Likewise, the three girls would not have provided it for them. This leaves us with one question, however, In a Marxist society, would Sammy have realized his adulthoodor would he have remained a child?

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