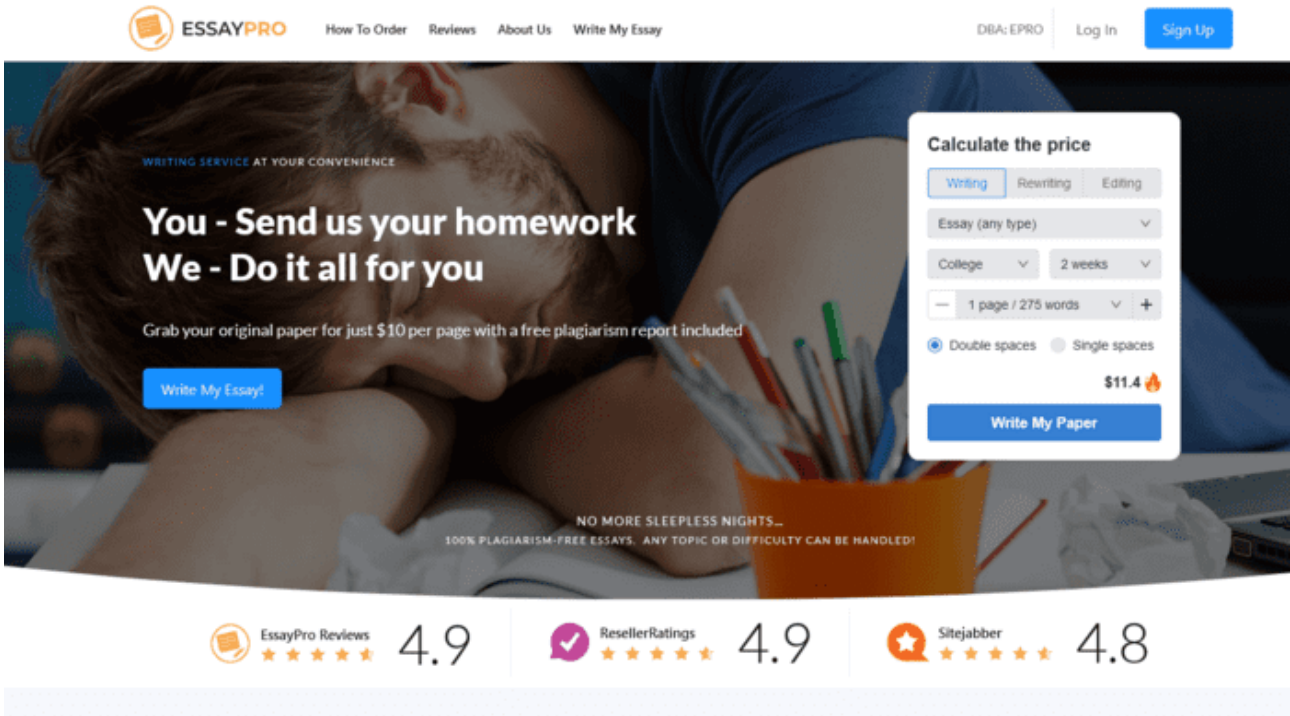


Racism Exposed in Cry, the Beloved Country



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Racism Exposed in Cry, the Beloved Country

The purpose of Cry, the Beloved Country, is to awaken the population of South Africa to the racism that is slowly disintegrating the society and its people. Alan Paton designs his work to express his views on the injustices and racial hatred that plague South Africa, in an attempt to bring about change and understanding. The characters that he incorporates within his story, help to establish a sense of the conditions and hardships that the country is experiencing, and the presence of fear through the whole of the populace.

Presenting the characters as having one-sided personalities or by referring to

them by a simple label, Paton indicates that these evils are universal and fundamental within human nature.

As Stephen Kumalo [searches](#) for his son, Absalom, Paton has several events befall onto Kumalo in order to represent the harsh society that many of the blacks live in. The first event occurs when Kumalo arrives in [Johannesburg](#), afraid from the stories that he has [heard](#), he puts his trust in another black man who appears to be of good intentions, but in reality cheats Kumalo of his money. This experience is unlike his time on the train, in which Kumalo had been treated with immense respect. On the train he is aware of the respect that other blacks hold for him, because he is a man of God, though, in the city, his social standing demonstrates little significance. This may be taken as a sign that the idea of a God may be questioned or less acceptable to the people, when they have positions in a society that are cruel and not beneficial.

Kumalo does find...

... middle of paper ...

...the healing of the dying land.

So in conclusion, Paton seeks to provoke a change in the conditions of the society before the deterioration of the people will be beyond redemption. In order to accomplish this, man must first rise above the generalities and hatred that each race has for each other. This is a necessary step in order to advance and create a harmony that will rebuild their country, and remove the segregation that runs rampant throughout the community.

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