

Anonymous Student

Professor Celeste Conway

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Essay 2

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How to Write a Bad Essay for English Class

“Another Evening at the Club” is a short story by Egyptian writer Alifa Rifaat. In the story, a young woman named Samia is forced by her family into marriage with a wealthy older man. Though her family sees the marriage as a wonderful opportunity, Samia’s life with her controlling, appearance-obsessed husband is unhappy. When she misplaces a ring he has given her, he forces her to blame her innocent maid, and she realizes that she has lost control over even her most personal choices and behaviors. As part of this assignment, I conducted a Google search for websites that analyze the story or offer sample essays, and I generated an essay about the story on Chat GTP. The literature websites all seem to offer the same information, and the Ai essay doesn’t sound like anything I would write. I feel that an essay that relies on the websites or on Chat GTP would not offer anything that hasn’t already been said about the story in a hundred boring college essays, offering no original insights or ideas. Below are five of the sites from my Google search. The Chat GTP essay appears at the end of this essay.

<https://prezi.com/xfefdewoxgxw/another-evening-at-the-club/>

The Prezi website offers a video discussion of “Another Evening at the Club.” The first slide is a biography of the author Alifa Rifaat. This is followed by a very brief statement about what the story is about. Other slides provide information about: the plot structure, important events in the

story, the theme, an analysis of the characters, the mood, point of view, conflict, and setting.

Some of the slides contain direct quotes from the story. I think the purpose of the website is to provide help to students who don't fully trust their understanding of the story and want an at-a-glance overview.

<https://another website that you have found>

The Egyptian Stories website has five tabs along the top of the page. These tabs are labeled

<https://another website that you have found>

The Student Help website is organized into five modules that can be opened by readers.

<https://another website that you have found>

The SparkNotes website gives an overview of the story on the main page. There are six tabs

<https://another website that you have found>

The Essay Savior website offers a list of essays about the story. However, in order to open each

<https://another website that you have found>

The Night Owl website is organized into two sections. One is a free option and the other is

The reason I think an essay relying on online sources would be boring is because most of the websites offer the same information, such as plot, theme, character analysis, and other typical topics. They also seem to use the same quotes to illustrate these topics. I think using these sites discourages imagination and limits the way you think about characters and scenes in a story. For example, all the websites for “Another Evening at the Club” talk about the theme of patriarchy and male dominance and nothing about what I see as the insecurity of the male characters in the story, including Bey and Samia’s father. I am also interested in how the beautiful setting of the story contrasts with Samia’s prison-like life.

Many of the literary websites will offer the first paragraph of a sample essay, but you have to join the website in order to see the entire essay. Others ask for money when you click on “Read more.” The websites are more like commercial businesses than academic sources. Sometimes I think it takes more time to Google this stuff than it does to just write the essay from scratch.

In my opinion, the websites give better information than the Chat GTP essay, which sounds phony. If you read it carefully, it doesn’t really say very much though it throws around a lot of big words. It talks about oppression and the “power dynamics” in “Another Evening at the Club,” but doesn’t really explain what those power dynamics are. It mentions how Samia “navigates the complexities of an arranged marriage” but never illustrates what those complexities are. The essay also refers to the “repetitive and monotonous nature of Samia’s existence,” but doesn’t tell what makes it repetitive or monotonous. By the way, what’s the difference between repetitive and monotonous? What college student talks about “poignant reminders” or “the broader themes of oppression and compliance” that the author supposedly

“delves into?” I also don’t think the point of the story is “to urge readers to reflect on the ongoing quest for gender equality and the importance of challenging societal norms that perpetuate inequality.” To me, this story is an intimate look at a woman in an oppressive marriage, not a call to readers to battle “societal norms.” I don’t use phrasing like that, or even think like that, so who would believe I write like that? I don’t know what half the stuff in this essay means, which makes me wonder if it means anything. Below is the Chat GTP essay.

Chat GTP Essay

"Another Evening at the Club," a short story by Alifa Rifaat, explores the intricacies of gender roles, societal expectations, and personal sacrifices in a patriarchal society. The narrative focuses on the life of Samia, a young woman who navigates the complexities of her arranged marriage to a wealthy, older man named Abboud Bey.

The story opens with a seemingly trivial incident: Samia misplaces an emerald ring, causing significant distress. Her husband's reaction to the loss highlights the power dynamics in their relationship. Abboud Bey's influence and control over Samia are evident as he swiftly takes charge, instructing her on what to say and do. This event becomes a catalyst, revealing the deeper issues within their marriage and the societal pressures Samia faces.

Rifaat effectively uses this incident to delve into broader themes of oppression and compliance. Samia's obedience and fear of her husband's authority reflect the limited autonomy women possess in her society. Her life is dictated by societal norms that prioritize the reputation and desires of men over the personal freedoms of women. The title, "Another Evening at the Club," underscores the repetitive and monotonous nature of Samia's existence, symbolizing the endless cycle of submission and sacrifice expected of her.

Through Samia's experiences, Rifaat critiques the patriarchal structure that confine women to subservient roles. The story serves as a poignant reminder of the silent struggles faced by women, urging readers to reflect on the ongoing quest for gender equality and the importance of challenging societal norms that perpetuate inequality.

Works Cited

Rifaat, Alifa. "Another Evening at the Club." *Arabic Short Stories*, translated by Denys Johnson-Davies, University of California Press, Berkeley, 1994.