
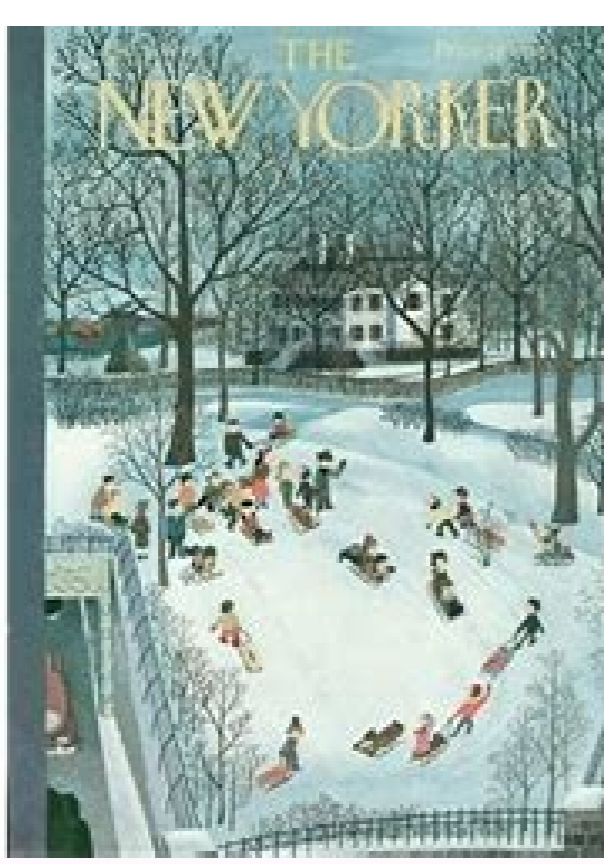


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Therefore, excessive happiness kills you. The story explores how Seymour Glass, the most precocious child of the Glass children, later a veteran of World War 2, copes with his internal struggles during his 3-day vacation. This is inferred through their conversation which randomly leads to the topic of bananafish. Ernest Hemingway's 1925 story 'Soldier's Home', in which a young man named Harold Krebs returns from fighting in the First World War and can no longer relate to the people in his hometown in Oklahoma. But how sibiline is Sibyl? While mother and daughter discuss his issues rather one-sidedly (mostly from the mother), Seymour spends a perfect day at the beach. However, Muriel insists to her mother that Seymour is fine. (Oddly enough, Seymour's statement about Sharon Lipschutz, 'mixing memory and desire', is an allusion to another post-WWI modernist work which features shell-shocked soldiers: T. In the second part of the story, the other subjects are explored. (view spoiler)[It must be said that this short story is the first of one of nine in Nine Stories which itself is one of four books in a series about the Glass Family. 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish' is one of J. This is emphasized by his mother-in-law and during his interactions with others. But the yellow bananafish also recalls the yellow bathing suit Sibyl is wearing: 'bananafish' thus combines her yellow attire with her proximity to the sea. If anything, it was meant as cautionary advice for her daughter, Muriel. Indeed, Muriel's mother believes the army should never have released Seymour from the army hospital because he is in danger of completely losing control. For one, she was reading an article called "Sex is Fun— or Hell" which indicates that they were having sex at least. I expect no less from Salinger, one of the greatest writers of modern times. He is evidently scarred by his war experiences. Seymour finally removes his robe, and goes down to the water with Sybil, pushing her out to sea on a float. Nevertheless, Salinger leaves hints throughout the story. His mother-in-law even alludes to the war that Seymour endured, but not in the way that explains his affliction. We learn that Muriel and Seymour have gone to Florida on holiday. He arrives at his room where his wife is asleep, takes out a gun from his luggage, and shoots himself in the head. Muriel's mother is concerned by the fact that Seymour drove himself and his wife there in his unstable mental state. Between their interactions and dialogue, it is evident that Seymour derives happiness from spending time with children and therefore surrounding himself with innocence. Why, I've known some bananafish to swim into a banana hole and eat as many as seventy-eight bananas... after that they're so fat they can't get out of the hole again. The subject of the first short story is undoubtedly Seymour Glass, and the following stories and books attempt to explain the mystery of his death and his influence on the other members of the Glass Family. In this particular story, the themes explored have to do with mental illness, innocence, happiness, and death. She is one of the guests of the hotel like Seymour, and has become his friend in a few days. Reading it takes a few minutes. Salinger's best-known and most widely studied short stories. Otherwise, I would recommend it because of how damn good it is. Seymour has also asked Muriel to learn German, so she can read the German poems he sent her when he was stationed in Germany during the war. 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish': analysis 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish' has been compared to Virginia Woolf's Mrs Dalloway: another post-war fiction which focuses (in one of its plotlines or character arcs) on a soldier who has recently returned from the war and who struggles to adjust to post-war life. With this in mind, we might also compare 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish' with another post-war story, albeit one that is, like Mrs Dalloway, about the aftermath of the First World War rather than the second. Both male protagonists can only truly relate to women - or rather, girls - who are much younger than they are, and who are, indeed, still children. Throughout the story, there are many indications that Seymour is mentally ill; however, it isn't outright mentioned. D. We might recall, in Salinger's novel The Catcher in the Rye, Holden Caulfield's disgust, when he visits his younger sister Phoebe's school to say goodbye, upon finding that a swearword has been scrawled on the walls, corrupting the innocence of childhood. This is foreshadowed by Seymour himself as he explains to Sybil that the bananafish die from their gluttony due to an affliction called "banana fever". Likewise, the themes are relevant. They go about their day separately. Muriel phoning her mother in the hotel and Seymour hanging out with a little girl on the beach. Eliot's 'The Waste Land.) It is clear that Muriel's mother is concerned for her daughter's safety when in the company of her husband, and it's also clear that Seymour has been acting erratically and even dangerously (such as crashing his father-in-law's car). It is not that the adult males in either story wish to objectify the girls; indeed, the point is that the men are themselves children, who have retreated back into childhood to avoid the unbearable strain of adult life. Even when the topic of conversation that arises in the story (a.k.a. bananafish) is otherworldly, it still feels real. I would describe Sybil as innocently evil, naive, and infatuated with Seymour. Ultimately, the bananafish symbolizes Seymour himself because like them he gorged himself of the things that make him happy whether it was Sybil or the piano playing. This is brought to light by another guest of the hotel who happened to be a psychiatrist. We learn that Seymour has recently crashed his father-in-law's car. Among other things, 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish' is a powerful depiction of alienation in the immediate post-war world of the late 1940s. In this connection, Sybil's breaking down of Seymour Glass's name into three distinct syllables (sibiline syllables?) - 'see more glass' - is both a child's immature play with the inherent but meaningless puns hiding within language and, at the same time, an almost metatextual revealing of Salinger's own writerly technique: clearly he intends us, like Sybil, to liberate this cryptic statement from Seymour's name as well. The creature subsequently dies of banana fever. These two scenes are then brought together for the story's tragic denouement. Personally, I think that she did. Can't fit through the door." Together, they spend a perfect day at the beach looking for bananafish. Innocence and happiness come in the form of a little girl named Sybil. In the last part of the story, Seymour dies without giving the readers any explanation. She is discussing her husband Seymour, who has become withdrawn since getting back from the war. And in other respects, there is a suggestion that Seymour views Sybil as a kind of mirror or reflection of himself; hence the punning potential of his full name which she liberates, 'see more glass', because he can see more of himself in the looking-glass that she represents than he can with anyone else, including his wife (whose name, Muriel, means 'sparkling or shining sea'; an ironic touch given that she is the one person out of the three of them who doesn't join them in the water: hers is one watery mirror in which he cannot locate himself). It offers a perspective on universal subjects which I haven't encountered until reading this. In the first and second part of the story, Seymour is presented in different lights. As far as short stories go, it is quite short. Muriel tells her mother that a psychiatrist staying in the hotel had asked her the night before if her husband was all right, presumably because he looks so pale and unwell. For Holden, many adults are 'phonies' and childhood is a pure state which we leave behind at our peril, for then we are truly lost. But it is Sybil for whom he takes off his robe, partly, perhaps, because such an act has none of the adult connotations it carries with his wife (with whom he is expected to perform his marital duties) and is instead a regression to childhood. As such, the events reveal that innocence is bliss. There is something deeply Romantic, in the Wordsworthian sense, about Salinger's view of children and childhood. This apparently nonsensical statement chimes with Seymour's own attitude concerning the fictional 'bananafish', a creature reminiscent of children's nonsense literature which he uses as a device to bond with Sybil in ways he cannot bond, in the adult world, with his own wife, with whom he can only now, it would seem, communicate in any meaningful sense in a language she literally cannot understand (that book of German poems). Salinger's child-characters are often the wisest, while the adults are too corrupted by the weight of the world and the realities of day-to-day living to be in touch with the true meaning of life. In terms of writing, it's just better. S. But once they get in, they behave like pigs. These poems, he claimed, were written by the greatest poet of the century. The characters are written superbly. This implies that their death is caused by an overconsumption of the thing that makes them most happy, bananas. The dialogues that Salinger writes are immaculate. Seymour gets back to the hotel, causing a scene in the elevator where he accuses a woman of looking at his feet. Partially (in MP3 format) Sorry, your browser doesn't support HTML5 I. They talk in a way that is more suggestive of two adults flirting than a grown man and a young girl conversing, with Sybil implying that she is jealous that Seymour let another girl, Sharon Lipschutz, sit next to him as he played the piano in the hotel. Despite its brevity, I don't recommend it to any of the following: overly idealistic high school students, unbaked youths, suicidal and/or mentally unstable people. With the death of Seymour, however, it is clear that mental illness brings more harm to the ill rather than those surrounding. In the first, he is thought to be sick. While Muriel and her mother talk over the phone, Seymour walks along the beach, where he meets Sybil, a young child who is staying in the same hotel as him. This seems obvious, but historically people have neglected and even demonized the mentally ill for their own well-being, in the same way the mother talked about Seymour. Moreover, they seem united as a couple since she defended him against her mother. Indeed, the one character in 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish' who seems to understand Seymour is the child, Sybil, whose very name summons the prophetesses of Greek mythology who made elliptical, but wise, pronouncements by scattering fragments of their prophecies which those who consulted them had to piece together themselves to discover their (potential) meanings. (hide spoiler)]I rate this short story 5 out of 5 stars. Another possible theme is that society views happiness as a sickness. He tells her about the bananafish, a greedy fish which feeds on bananas by squeezing into holes filled with them. With regards to Muriel, one can only really make a sound judgement once the other books in the Glass Family series have been read. Overall, everything about it seems nostalgic to me even though I never lived through the 1940s. He also refuses to take his bathrobe off because he doesn't want anyone to see his tattoo - even though, according to Muriel, he doesn't have a tattoo. When it comes to his wife Muriel, however, I believe there is contention on whether she made him happy or not. The story explores how Seymour Who is the Bananafish? Perfect Day for Bananafish, a short story fiction by J.D. Salinger, narrates a day in the life of a married couple, Seymour and Muriel Glass, on a vacation in Florida during 1948. Salinger's story is similarly full of elliptical statements and exchanges ('elliptical' meaning that parts of the meaning are left out, leaving us to deduce the full meaning for ourselves). Aside from Seymour's debilitating mental health, happiness serves as the major indicator of his death. I acknowledge this possibility on the assumption that the psychiatrist made the conclusion having only observed Seymour play the piano which in itself is a positive activity. Small toggle button 001 Who is the Bananafish? Perfect Day for Bananafish, a short story fiction by J.D. Salinger, narrates a day in the life of a married couple, Seymour and Muriel Glass, on a vacation in Florida during 1948. Observe how Seymour initially mistakes Sybil's yellow bathing suit for a blue one, mirroring his own royal blue shorts. Because the psychiatrist was a complete stranger having no reason to lie and no evidence suggests that Seymour was unhappy, we can infer that mental illness does not prevent happiness. The story is about a man, Seymour, who has returned from the war and feels disconnected from the world around him, including his wife. In terms of content, the story, along with its themes, is unique. For 'banana fever', read PTSD following his war experiences. First published in the New Yorker in 1948, the story is a masterclass in how to reveal both character and plot through elliptical and suggestive dialogue, with the 'action' largely focusing on two scenes: one in a hotel room and the other on a beach. Seymour Glass is Salinger's own version of Septimus Smith, Woolf's shell-shocked First World War veteran whose patient wife Lucrezia feels powerless to help her troubled husband, much as Muriel feels unable (though willing) to help Seymour. In the second part, we have established that he was happy. Seymour explains, "... They swim into a hole where there's a lot of bananas. This strange fish then gorges on the fruit, becoming trapped because it's too fat to squeeze back out the hole again. They're very ordinary-looking fish when they swim in. The alienation of the war-scarred male character is not the only thing which unites these two stories: Seymour's playful conversation (indeed, borderline flirtation) with Sybil recalls Krebs' relationship with his younger sister (where he talks to her as though they are courting boyfriend and girlfriend rather than sisters). But if she is the bananafish, so is Seymour: he has been squeezed through the hole and is unable to make his way out again. Needless to say, the writing style, dialogue, and content are all infallible. Sybil goes along with this tall tale, and even claims to have seen a bananafish in the water, with six bananas in its mouth. 'A Perfect Day for Bananafish': plot summary On a hot day in Florida, a young married woman named Muriel talks on the telephone to her mother.



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