Here a Captive Heart Busted: Studies in the Sentimental Journey of Modern Literature

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It might seem a long way from Mark Twain's Jim, the runaway slave scratching 'Here a captive heart busted' on the walls of his cabin, to, say, Dickens making a small fortune out of the death of Little Nell, but for Howard Fulweiler it is the shortest of sentimental journeys. As he concludes, 'we have seen... that not only Jim's heart has been captive, but the hearts of Western humanity as a whole.' Fulweiler's subject is the 'flimsy cabin of false sentiment' - a cabin which, he argues, has housed not only such well-known sentimentalists as Dickens and the later Tennyson but also such modernists and quasi-modernists as Hopkins, Hardy, Lawrence, and Eliot. With the onset of modernism, sentimentality - defined as 'the inauthentic manipulation of emotion' - does not disappear but simply shifts from the domestic to the sexual. The high promise of this unfashionable thesis is particularly evident as it enables Fulweiler to read Hopkins as a Victorian; despite his renunciation of 'family, hearth, [and] home' Hopkins, we learn, still produces a poetry which, in both its nationalism and preoccupation with Mary, is very much part of the mainstream of 'inauthentic' Victorian tears. The cabin of sentimentality is, it seems,...

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This material is available only on Freebooksummary. Here a Captive Heart Busted: Studies in the Sentimental Journey of Modern Literature book review. The whole doc is available only for registered users OPEN DOC. Book: Essay Database › Science › International Studies. For Fulweiler, who in Heart studies sentimentality in the work of six male authors of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, sentimentality is symptomatic of modern Western civilization's loss of an awareness of participation. Borrowed from Owen Barfield's Saving the Appearances: A Study in Idolatry (1957), "participation" refers to the extra-sensory, "non-material connection between human beings and what is ordinarily called familiar nature" (Fulweiler 19). Recent papers in Otherworld Journey In Medieval Literature. Papers. People. Andersweltreisen der Kelten in der antiken Literatur: ein kurzer Baedeker. The Otherworld and its accessibility to living men has
always been an illustrious, emotional literary topic in the literary production of the Western tradition, since classical antiquity, through the advent of Christianity and across the centuries of the Middle Ages. From Homer's "Odyssey" to Vergil's "Aeneid", from Pope St. Gregory the Great to the visionary dreams originated in medieval Ireland, and up to the legend of the Purgatory of St. Patrick, men have always been dreaming about the afterlife, its shadows, its demons and its punishments. Book Overview. Contemporary readers who look at late-eigteenth-century or nineteenth-century imaginative literature must be struck by a phenomenon that is nearly universal in the period: the powerful presence of sentimentality. An often overlooked fact is that "Sentimentality" not only is a critical term, but is limited to a historical period, from roughly 1700 to the present. Fulweiler's hypothesis is that sentimentality in writing has played a crucial part in shaping Read Full Overview.