

Brock Hammond

Paper Abstract

### Society's Treatment of Characters in EQ

Question: Does society unjustly oppose people whose ideas or actions push the ideological boundaries of society?

Thesis: Society, although unjust or unreasonable, opposes characters or movements that test the ideological boundaries of society, despite their good intentions.

Throughout the semester, characters and their place in society has been a reoccurring theme. Many of the characters and works that have been analyzed this semester have dealt with some form of oppression or opposition by society as a whole even if the characters or works promote noble causes. For example, Rorschach in *Watchmen* is vilified by society because of his actions and feelings towards those who break the law.

Society lays out how the justice system is supposed to work, and Rorschach directly defies that. Society sees Rorschach as a murderous lunatic, but in reality, he is a crime fighter out to rid the world of scum. His cause is noble, but he is discarded by society for being too extreme.

The Priest in *The Power and The Glory* is killed for promoting religion. He is opposed by society because religion has been declared illegal in this Mexican province. The moral foundations that Christianity is built upon promote love and compassion, and he is killed for having these beliefs.

Protest songs also provide insight on the injustices being served to those

who opposed society. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, society denied millions of people African Americans and other ethnicities the same basic rights that were provided to white men. However, lynchings and other forms of discrimination tried to suppress any action towards equality for these oppressed peoples. With these three examples in mind, I hope to expand on my thesis that society can be unreasonable and oppresses anyone who defies it.