

RECLAIMING WILDERNESS: AN ANALYSIS OF "LOBO, THE KING OF CURRUMPAW" AND "THE PACING MUSTANG" BY ERNEST SETON-THOMPSON

D. Buronova ¹, S. Mallayeva ², G. Jamg'irova ³

Abstract:

Ernest Seton-Thompson's works, "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang," stand as seminal contributions to nature literature, offering poignant narratives that delve into themes of wilderness conservation, ethical responsibility, and the complexities of human-wildlife conflict. This article provides a comprehensive analysis of both works, examining their thematic richness and enduring relevance in today's environmental discourse. Through an exploration of key themes and characters, this study sheds light on Seton-Thompson's enduring message about the importance of respecting the natural world and the consequences of human actions on wildlife populations.

Key words: Wilderness conservation, Human-wildlife conflict, Environmental ethics, Nature literature, Ernest Seton-Thompson.

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Introduction:

In the rich tapestry of nature literature, certain works hold a special place for their ability to captivate readers while conveying profound messages about humanity's relationship with the natural world. Ernest Seton-Thompson's "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang" are two such masterpieces, offering compelling narratives that delve into the complexities of human-wildlife interaction. Set against the backdrop of the rugged American West, both novels explore themes of power, redemption, and the ethical responsibilities inherent in our treatment of wild animals. This article aims to dissect the thematic elements of both works and analyze their enduring relevance in today's environmental discourse.

Materials & Methods:

To conduct a comprehensive analysis of "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang," this study employed a qualitative approach, drawing upon close reading and textual analysis techniques. Primary data were obtained from a careful examination of the novels themselves, with particular attention paid to key themes, characters, and narrative devices. Secondary sources, including scholarly articles and critical analyses of Seton-Thompson's work, were also consulted to provide context and support for the interpretations presented in this study.

Results:

Both "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang" emerge as poignant explorations of wilderness conservation and the consequences of human intervention in the natural world. Seton-Thompson's narratives skillfully weave together elements of adventure,

¹ *Buronova Dilnoza*

² *Mallayeva Sabrina*

³ *Jamg'irova Gulsevar*

tragedy, and moral reflection, inviting readers to contemplate their own role in shaping the fate of wildlife populations. Through the tragic stories of Lobo and the pacing mustang, both novels highlight the devastating impact of human actions on individual animals and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Discussion:

At the heart of both "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang" lies the theme of human-wildlife conflict, a recurring motif in Seton-Thompson's work. The novels vividly depict the clash between human civilization and the untamed wilderness, presenting readers with stark portrayals of the consequences of human intervention in the natural world. Through the characters of Lobo and the mustang, Seton-Thompson highlights the resilience and adaptability of wild animals in the face of human encroachment.

Moreover, both novels prompt readers to reconsider their perceptions of wild animals and to recognize the inherent value of all living beings. Seton-Thompson challenges readers to empathize with the protagonists, portraying them not as mere predators but as sentient beings with complex social structures and emotional lives. Through the tragic fates of Lobo and the mustang, the novels underscore the importance of respecting the rights of wild animals and preserving their natural habitats.

Furthermore, "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang" offer nuanced explorations of power and dominance in the natural world. Seton-Thompson challenges traditional notions of human superiority over nature, portraying the protagonists as formidable adversaries whose strength and cunning are matched only by their fierce loyalty to their packs. The novels serve as reminders of the interconnectedness of all living beings and the need for humans to adopt a humbler and more respectful attitude towards the ecosystems that sustain life on Earth.

In addition to their thematic depth, both novels stand as testaments to Seton-Thompson's skill as a storyteller. The evocative prose and vivid descriptions transport readers to the rugged landscapes of the American West, immersing them in the sights, sounds, and smells of the wilderness. Seton-Thompson's ability to capture the beauty and brutality of the natural world adds an extra layer of richness to the narratives, drawing readers into the stories and compelling them to confront the moral dilemmas at their cores.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, "Lobo, the King of Currumpaw" and "The Pacing Mustang" by Ernest Seton-Thompson are literary masterpieces that continue to resonate with readers for their exploration of themes related to wilderness conservation, human-wildlife conflict, and ethical responsibility. Seton-Thompson's narratives offer compelling visions of a world in which humans and wild animals coexist in harmony, reminding us of the importance of respecting the rights of all living beings and preserving the natural world for future generations. As we confront the environmental challenges of the 21st century, the lessons of both novels serve as timely reminders of our shared responsibility to safeguard the biodiversity and integrity of our planet.

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