

Robertson Davies

Fifth Business

Ques 1 Evaluate the autobiographical element in Davies' 'Fifth Business'.

Ans 1 Introduction is:

'Fifth Business' is an excellent novel by 'Robertson Davies', an internationally acclaimed author of Canada. The narrator of this novel is Dunstan Ramsay, whose past and present forms out the plot of this novel. The story arises mostly out of his memory stuff and from this narration, his whole life, from early childhood to his present age of retirement is gradually unfolded. The entire story is told in the form of a letter written by Ramsay on his retirement from teaching at Calverton College, addressed to his School Headmaster.

Dunstan Ramsay's Reply: His Fifth Business is

Dunstan Ramsay has retired from teaching history at an exclusive Canadian School after 45 years. There has been a testimonial dinner and a 'tribute' to him published in a magazine under the control of the present headmaster. But Dunstan takes the so-called tribute as a trivializing of his life with a bit of anger, he sets out to present his second straight

DEEPAK
Page No. 62
Date

writing his reply. This reply of Ramsay is to justify his life in terms of Fifth Business a way of life. The story of Dunstan (The Called Dunstable) Ramsay's life begins in 1908 when Ramsay was 10 years old. He and his 'forenemy' Percy Boyd Staunton have been sledging together and have quarrelled. On the way back to town Percy throws a snowball containing a small rock at Ramsay, who jumps aside, the snowball missed him and strike the passing by Mary Dempster, the pregnant wife of Deptford's Baptist minister. The shock of the snowball hitting her head caused her to go into labour and deliver a premature boy Paul Dempster.

Ramsay; A Life Fulfilled : 7

Ramsay steps back from his past to present in 1969, at the time of his retirement from the school. He writes to prove to the headmaster that he has infactled a rich and full life, in his own way, which Dunstan describes a being — "Cast by fate and my own character for the vital though never glorious role of Fifth Business".

Conclusion of

In short 'Fifth Business' presents the psychological conflict in the mind of its central character Dunstan Ramsay. The novel is in the form of a letter containing the past memories of the hero and his present. It is an excellent presentation with the help of images and narration.

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