

Chapter 23

SELF AND ECOLOGY IN ALICE MUNRO'S THE VIEW FROM THE CASTLE ROCK

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ABSTRACT

The View from the Castle Rock is the short story collection by Alice Munro; the celebrated Canadian short story writer. The stories in this collection are fictionalized autobiographies. Through the family history of Laidlaw's she traces her ancestors' sail from Scotland to Canada and their settlement there. Munro wrote about three generations of the family and their struggle to change and to be adapted to their respective environments. We can trace the relation between how they expanded their spaces and their minds; how the nature that they traveled through, conquered, adapted, and loved represents their selves.

Keywords: Self, Ecology, Alice Munro, *The view from the castle rock*, Canadian literature

Introduction

Human beings develop their own sense of place through life; they love certain regions or feel utterly alien in others. They long for the particularities of a certain place that have had a powerful interior effect on their human psyche. Neil Evernden in *The Social Creation of Nature* observes that

There appears to be a human phenomenon, similar in some ways to the experience of territoriality, that is described as aesthetic and which is, in effect, 'a sense of place', a sense of knowing and of being part of a particular place (100). "A sense of place" requires boundaries and an identifiable notion of what is outside or beyond one's sense of place or home.

This notion supports the view that 'understanding the self requires an understanding of where it is