

## Analytical Essay

A film about the difficulty in interpreting the life of a person, Orson Welles' "*Citizen Kane*" poses an important question to its audiences on who Charles Foster Kane, the main protagonist in the film, really was. The movie basically revolved around the personal and in-depth look at the life of Kane, a wealthy and renowned media magnate whose career in the publishing industry was supposedly born not only out of an ideal exemplary of social service but also of a ruthless pursuit for power. The life of Charles Foster Kane, for the most part, remained hidden and ambiguous apart from his accomplishments and possessions. But as the producer in the movie recognized, a man's life cannot merely be defined by his public achievements. It is in this context that the investigations on who the real Charles Foster Kane began, particularly after he mysteriously uttered his dying word "Rosebud" which left people bewildered and confused on what it truly meant. Unbeknown to most people, Charles Foster Kane, amidst all the wealth, possessions and accomplishments he obtained throughout his life, had many hurts and regrets in the past which shaped his character.

One of the most notable scenes in the film was when the character of Kane himself stated the words, "If I hadn't been rich, I might have been a really great man"; these brave yet truthful words of Kane clearly provided the audience an opportunity to grasp the real character of Kane as a man. Ultimately, in the film, it was revealed that when Kane said these words, it is clear that he had regrets on the kind of life he chose to live in. That despite all the wealth, fame and a good name, that some things more important and dear to him were missing which makes him quite unhappy and unsatisfied with his present life.

Apparently, when Charles Foster Kane was still a kid, he was sent away by his mother to be raised by Thatcher, a banker. Since then, Kane became callous and arrogant as caused by the pain of separation from his own home; ultimately, this became his downfall as Kane was alienated by the real people who cared about him and he also lost the fortune he made throughout his career. The arrogance of Kane became the ultimate conflict in the film as it was the main culprit as to why he lost the newspaper company. When Thatcher tried to warn him that he will be losing a million dollars a year running the newspaper, Kane did not take heed of Thatcher's advice and even told him that at any rate, he will have to shut down the newspaper in sixty years. This clearly showed the overconfident and arrogant character of Kane which caused his eventual downfall.

In conclusion, it turned out that Charles Foster Kane had many hurts and regrets in the past which led to his less desirable and unfulfilled life despite all his achievements. Bits and pieces of his true character were revealed in many scenes throughout the film particularly the fact that Kane did not want to leave his parents or his home, but was only forced to do so because his mother thought it would be best for him. Kane however thought otherwise as his whole life started become miserable when he left the house and this became one of his deepest regrets. Kane also agreed that life would have been eminently different if he had stayed at home with Rosebud and his family and this was what he was thinking up to the time that he died. It was clearly depicted in the film that material luxury and financial affluence may not necessarily entail emotional security and life satisfaction. Moreover, the film attested to the fact that money cannot buy the things that really matter in life.

**Word Count: 640**

## Works Cited

*Citizen Kane*. Dir. Orson Welles. Perfs. Orson Welles, Joseph Cotton. RKO Pictures, 1941.

Pramaggiore, Maria and Tom Wallis. *Film: A Critical Introduction*. Boston: Pearson, 2010, 40.