

The Market for Prisoners: Business, Crime and Punishment in the "American Dream"

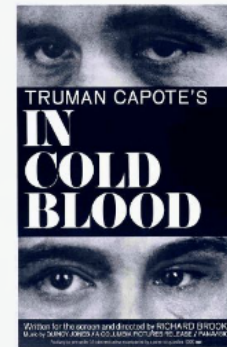
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Biography

Truman Capote was born on September 30, 1924. He passed away at the age of 54 on August 25, 1984. Capote had a sorrowful childhood that consisted of multiple migrations and the absence of his parents. His 17 year old mother gave him up at the age of 4 and sent him to Alabama to be raised by her relatives. These life situations shaped Capote into a brilliant artist, novelist, short story writer and screen writer. As a lonely child, Capote taught himself how to read and write. He had discovered his calling as a writer at the age of 11. Capote is best known for his crime novel, *In Cold Blood* and the novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. He engages his readers by using a realistic upfront tone, he also uses a tremendous amount of detail to ensure that the reader is able to paint a picture and feel much more connected with the novel.



Caseism.com *Summary*

On November 14, 1959, in the small town of Holcomb, Kansas, four members of the Clutter family were savagely murdered by Eugene Hickock and Perry Smith using a shotgun that was held only inches away from their faces. The motive for this brutal killing was the murderer's inability to obtain the "American Dream." Dissimilar to Mr. Clutter who "always certain of what he wanted from the world had in large measure obtained it." (6)

The bodies were soon discovered by Susan Kidwell, a family friend. Susan then contacted the authorities who started an investigation that was lead by Alvin Dewey. During the process of collecting evidence and testimonies Dick and Perry took this chance to flee far from Kansas City which deteriorated the possibility for them to be captured.

After weeks of a difficult investigation, Dick and Perry were finally caught in Las Vegas by a police officer who noticed the license plate of a car that was stolen by them. Dick and Perry are then taken to prison and Alvin, who has put so much effort into this investigation, is finally at ease. He is content with the fact that justice has finally been made for the death of the clutter family who were also known as his kind and high valued friends. Perry and Dick ended up getting the punishment they deserved.



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SOAPS Tone

Speaker: Truman Capote, his novels were nonfiction and usually suspenseful.

Occasion: Location was at Holcomb, Kansas on November 1959

Audience: People who like crime/mysterious books.

Purpose: To inform the readers of the small town murders.

Subject: Small town with a tragedy of murders of killing families leaving the people around terrified and unsafe.

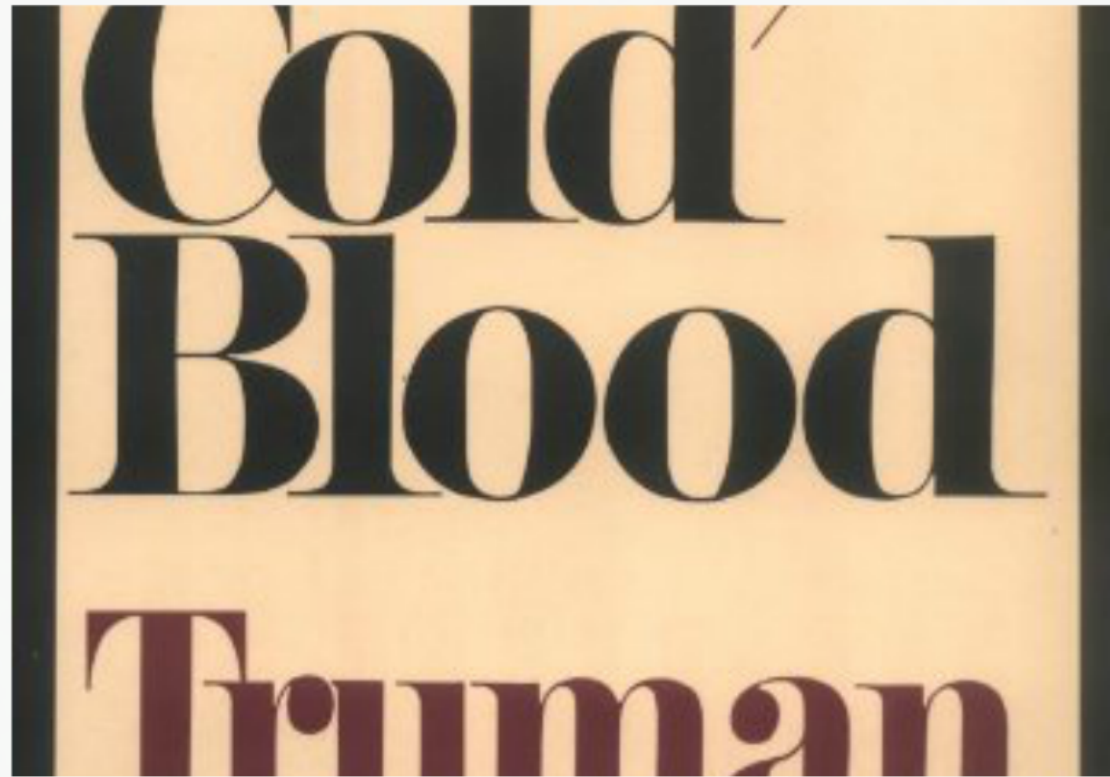
Tone: The tone he used was mysterious and suspicious because his sentences were short and to the point make it suspenseful.

Literary and Historical Context

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In *Cold Blood* is a novel of the true crime genre, but was far from the ordinary crime books written before. It was also categorized as an example of "new journalism." Soon after the Clutter family was murdered, the *New York Times* ran an article on the homicides, which Capote happened to read. *Cold Blood* was written in 1965 and had a Nouveau Roman, also known as New Novel, Movement which "dispensed with traditional elements" throughout the novel. It also had a Modern/Post Modern Period because it had "blurs lines of reality" for the audience.

Caseism.com *Syntactical Analysis*



"Live and let live and in many cases my children would tell on each other when doing wrong and the guilty one would always come forward, willing for spanking." (pg. 126)

Purpose:
exclamatory

Length: long

Order: inverted

Structure: complex

Special Features:
there is a lot of detail explaining a personal incident
simile comparing his kids to the suspects

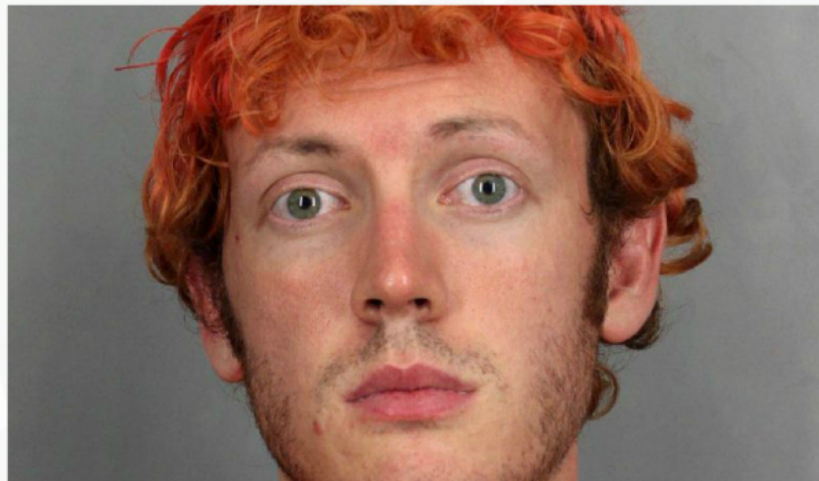
Verbs: come,
spanking, tell

The author wrote this to show that the right thing to do would be to admit and own up to committing a crime and doing the wrong thing because the wrong doesn't anyone very far in life.

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Caseism.com *Connection #1*

In *Cold Blood* is a novel about two cold hearted murderers that shot and killed four innocent people. This is closely related to the mass murder committed by a perpetrator named James Holmes. On July 20, 2012, Holmes unsympathetically used multiple weapons, one of which was a shotgun to end the lives of 12 innocent people. This shooting occurred in Aurora Colorado a city known for its calm and quiet feel, this making the shooting unimaginable to its residents. In the novel, no one imagined that in a small peaceful town like Holcomb there would be a brutal killing of such a nice family. Similar to Dick and Perry, Holmes eventually got the punishment he deserved.



Connection #2

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Connection 2

In Cold blood sounds like the book Ezra was writing in *Pretty Little Liars*'s on ABC Family. Due to the fact when the mysterious murder in Kansas of a husband, his wife and their two children were murdered. Truman went to investigate the case. Later becoming friends with the people that lived in the same area, and the investigators as well. This is similar to Ezra's book because he was also investigating the murder of Ali Delirartus, and was getting the full story of the people in the town and her friends.

