

Jordyn Sliger

Mr. Ward

English 3

11/20/19

Character Analysis

Personal healing looks different for each individual, but it is undeniable that someone's environment will have influence over this process. In the show American Horror Story, this is showcased through the lens of the main character Tate Langdon who has grown into a product of his toxic surroundings. You can not heal in the same place you were hurt, and he is a representation of this statement. While being reminded of his **terrible past, facing temptations and being under the influence of those around him**, Tate frequently struggles to find a way out of his own head. He wants to get better, but he feels as if he is chained to his wicked ways and can not control himself anymore.

Tate Langdon is a deranged murdering teenager who is deceased, but resides among the living and dead that take home at the infamous "Murder House." Tate was raised in a dysfunctional family which shaped him to be overly sensitive and full of rage. **He resided with his mother who was an uncaught murder to his late father and an avid alcoholic who would abuse him in numerous ways. These feelings caused a fire inside Tate which led him to commit a killing spree at his high school. This decision led to his death as once he was caught, he was shot by the police. It was apparent his rage carried from life into death as his tendencies only worsened. Tate stole the lives of many people in the name of revenge, closure or to gain**

leverage. Tate is very charismatic and manipulative and will do everything in his power to get his way, which is very apparent through the storyline of this show. Tate frequently feels inferior and misunderstood as he is stuck in a state of childlike mannerisms, and does not truly grasp the concept of death or the issues he has.

Through the events of this series timeline, it becomes very apparent that Tate struggles to overcome the reality of his past, which holds him back from even beginning the process of healing. He seems almost stranded within his own thoughts that are replaying his past trauma and actions on loop. As his **living mother Constance resides next door to the murder house and makes herself a frequent visitor,** Tate is constantly reminded of his childhood which always instantly puts him in a fiery mood. Constance is persistent in forcing herself into her son's life and often blames Tate for his current issues when it all sprouted from her abuse. In addition to his mother is a constant reminder, **he is also trapped inside the house with those who he had inflicted harm upon.** These fellow spirits frequently shun him or seek ways to get revenge on him. They often try to harm or get rid of his living girlfriend, in hopes to get him back for the suffering he put them through.

Another thing that prevents Tate from moving forward internally is the **temptations** constantly surrounding him. He is constantly being tempted with drugs, sex, and potential victims. Many lost souls in the home try and **convince him to engage in acts that will ruin his relationship,** which is the only thing he has going for him. Tate finds it easier to overlook the drugs in his presence and sex as he is too indulged in his emotions tied to his girlfriend Violet but, **he struggles to refrain from taking his pain out on others.** Tate is constantly walking on **glass with himself as his temper is very fragile and as soon as something happens that**

frustrates him, he is prepared to sacrifice others to make himself feel better. Being tempted to place harm upon those who have wronged or disrespected him has always been Tate's downfall, as he seems to rationalize these actions because he is constantly surrounded by sick individuals who allow this behavior.

The last thing that prevents Tate from healing from his past trauma and growing as a person is the continual influence others in the house have on him. He is frequently surrounded by people who put a strain on his mental health as they manipulate and use him for their own personal gain. These souls take advantage of his child-like manner and convince him to commit horrendous crimes on their behalf which in return makes him believe what he did was justified since he was helping them gain something. Tate has a desire to please those around him and is willing to do anything to make amends with these lost souls as he believes this will morph him into a "good person." This is apparent in the instance that he impregnated his girlfriend's mother in hopes to conceive a child for a soul in the house who lost her own child.

Tate Langdon's environment was not a beneficial place for him to heal and grow in. He was consistently being reminded of his past, being tempted and being influenced by others in ways that restricted his personal growth. This claim only strengthens as the plot develops and Tate's past is revealed showing the viewer that he is trying to cope in the same environment he was hurt in. You can not grow from the same environment you were hurt in and Tate is proof of this.