

Evil Robot Monkey

Written by Mary Robinette Kowal

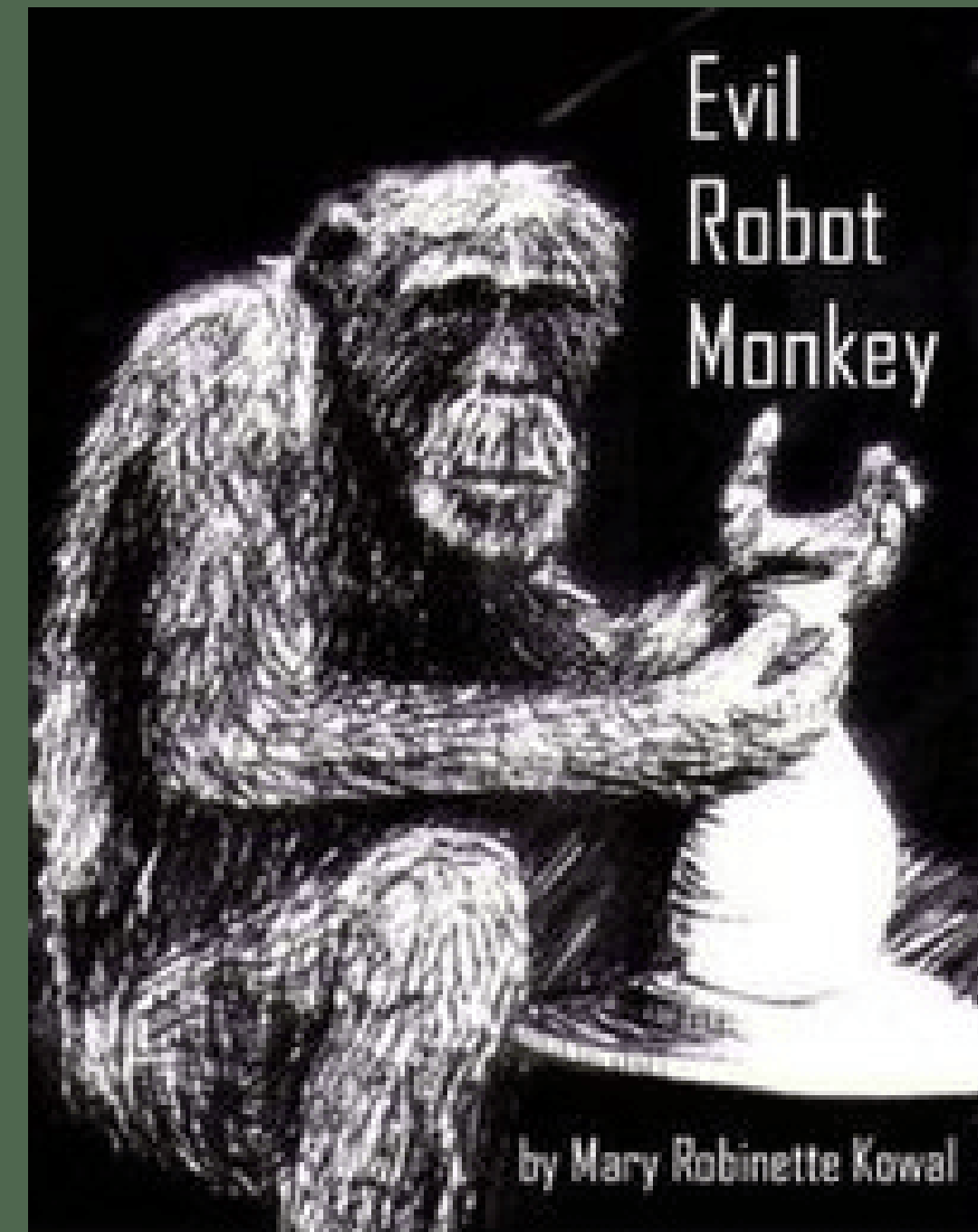
Psychological Lens Pecha Kucha Presentation

Presented by: Natalie Maltcheva and Stella Maltcheva



Short Story Summary

This story is about an intelligent monkey named Clay that makes pottery. His mind works similarly to humans and he is "...too smart to be with other chimps, but too much of an animal to be with humans." (Kowal 3). Sly is made fun of by children outside and attempts controlling his anger. He is disciplined by Vern the handler.



Character Summary

- He has a chip in his brain that makes him smarter than other monkeys, although not quite like humans, making him feel lonely
- Enjoys creating pottery and sculpting clay
- Sometimes he struggles to control his emotions



Beginning

Sly enjoyed molding his clay and minding his own business in the beginning. He was startled by the young visitors who came to watch him. The children were mocking him, and he was getting frustrated. He wanted to get revenge, so, on the window "...he wrote SSA. Outside, the letters would be reversed." (Kowal 1)



Beginning-ID

- In the beginning his ID was hurt when the children made fun of him and laughed
- His ID made him want to defend himself and respond to the issue
- Instinctually, he wanted to hurt them or threaten the children
- He bared his teeth and felt angered



Beginning-Superego

- Sly's superego knew that he has rules to follow and expectations he has to meet when there are visitors
- Therefore, the presence of his superego urged him to be kind and polite to the children, despite that they mocked him



Beginning-Ego



- Because of his ego, Sly decides to seek revenge and fulfill the needs of his ID by writing SSA on the window
- His superego also ensured that he wasn't more violent or inappropriate than he had to be, even though in this case the ID mainly influenced his actions

Middle

“Sly’s lips drew back in a grimace built of anger and fear. Rage threatened to blind him, but he held on, clutching the wheel. If he lost it with Vern—rational thought danced out of his reach. Panting, he spun the wheel trying to push his anger into the clay.” (Kowal 2)

In the middle, Sly was confronted by his caretaker Vern. Sly was frustrated with the situation, the way he was treated, and the fact that the visit was a surprise. He made an effort to channel his anger towards molding his clay.



Middle-ID

- In the middle his ID led him to feel angry and fearful
- He felt the urge to mistreat Vern or take out his built-up anger
- Because of the anger and fear his ID encouraged him to release his emotions in some way



Middle-Superego

- Sly's superego knew that he was supposed to act a certain way and that it was morally incorrect to take it out on Vern
- This is because Vern was just trying to help and Sly knew he needed to maintain a healthy relationship with Vern. Not only because he was a friend, but also because he was the person who best understood him



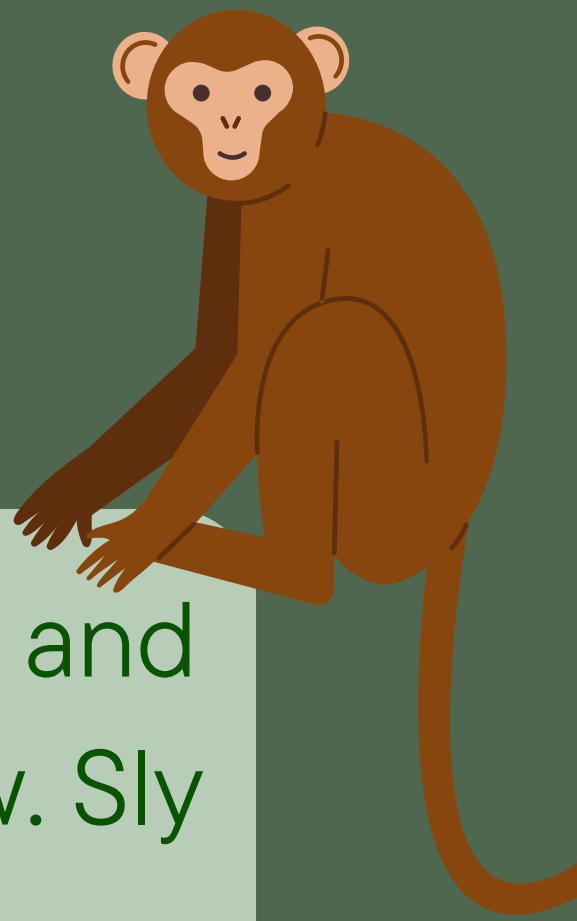
Middle-Ego



- Because of his ego, Sly decides to try his best to contain his emotions and tries to find a way to release his anger without hurting Vern
- He decides to "... push his anger into the clay." (Kowal 2) and use the clay as a method to release emotions and satisfy the needs of his ID and not hurt Vern in the process



End



“I understand.” He waited until the door closed, then loped over and scooped the clay up. It was not much, but it was enough for now. Sly sat down at his wheel and began to turn.” (Kowal 3)

Towards the end, Sly still felt frustrated with the situation, although he remained quite calm on the outside. He did his best to understand Vern's perspective. He decided to attempt to move on from the situation and accept what happened.

End-ID

- In the end his ID led him to feel frustrated and angry
- This is because one of his favourite things was taken away from him by Vern
- He had the urge to express his emotions and frustration in some manner



End-Superego



- Sly's superego knew that Vern was only trying to help him..
- His superego reminded him that it would be wrong to take out the frustrations he has about life out on Vern.
- It reminded him that expressing his frustrations in aggressive ways would only make matters worse, potentially increasing his punishment and worsening his relationship with Vern.

End-Ego

- Using his ego, he compromised, mostly basing his actions off of the superego.
- His ID urges to act on his emotions were mostly ignored, although he still found extra clay at the end and made the best of the situation, satisfying his want for clay, getting back to his comfort zone and doing what he enjoys without causing more problems in the process.
- He respected Vern while still finding a way to do something he enjoys.



What does the story reveal about Sly's ID, Superego and Ego?



- It reveals that Sly's Superego is mostly dominant
- Initially, Sly's ID is present because he seeks revenge on the children that make fun of him and then his ego led him to calm down and express his anger with the clay rather than taking it out on Vern
- Overall, his superego mediated between the two and led to the resolution of the conflict between the ID and ego even if the ID was more present throughout the story than the ego.

What does the story reveal about society?

- It reveals that art and hobbies can be largely beneficial to managing emotions and coping with overwhelming or unpleasant situations.
- It reveals how there is often an internal battle for people between doing what they have the urge to do and what they are supposed to do.
- The importance of being empathetic and understanding and the importance of proper communication.



Citations:

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Thank you
for listening!