

Sample Paraphrase and Summary

Original Passage	Paraphrase	Summary
<p>At the top of the agricultural society are the minority of corporation farms and big farm owners. For them, the technological revolution has meant enormous profits and fantastic feats of production. In 1954, some 12 per cent of the operators controlled more than 40 per cent of the land and grossed almost 60 per cent of the farm sales. These were the dramatic beneficiaries of the advance in the fields.¹</p>	<p>Advances in farm technology have enabled corporate farms and large farm owners, the agricultural elite, to increase both profits and production disproportionately. Though they constituted only 12 percent of farm owners, they held 40% of farm land and took 60% of the market share in 1954. The profits of agricultural technology are theirs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The technological revolution in farming benefitted most dramatically a small minority of big operators 2. A few large farms and corporate farms profited most from technological advances .
<p>The word [narcissism] has become part of everyday speech to such an extent, and perhaps more than any other scientific term, that it is difficult today to rescue it for scientific use. The more sincerely the psychoanalytic profession toils for a deeper understanding of the concept of “narcissism,” and to elucidate and define it for scientific use, the more the word attracts people to use it in everyday speech. The result of all this is such multiplicity of meanings that it is difficult to use the word now to define a precise psychoanalytic concept.²</p>	<p>“Narcissism’ has become so much a part of ordinary speech that it is hard to use the word scientifically. This may have happened more to this word than to any other scientific term. The result of psychoanalysts’ struggle to understand narcissism as a scientific concept has been to encourage ordinary people to use the word. As a consequence, the term has acquired so many non-scientific meanings that it no longer accurately identifies a psychoanalytic theory.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The word “narcissism” has acquired so many meanings in popular use that its psychoanalytic meaning has been overshadowed 2. The scientific meaning of “narcissism” is being lost because it has acquired so many meanings in everyday speech.
<p>Our contempt for “egoists” begins very early in life. Children who fulfill their parents’ conscious or unconscious wishes are “good,” but if they ever refuse to do so or express wishes of their own that go against those of their parents, they are called egoistic and inconsiderate. It usually does not occur to the parents that they might need and use the child to fulfill their own egoistic wishes. They are often convinced that they must teach their child how to behave because it is their duty to help him along on the road to socialization. If a child brought up this way does not wish to lose his parents’ love (and what child can risk that?), he must learn very early to share, to give, to make sacrifices, and to be willing to “do without” and forgo gratification—long before he is capable of true sharing or of the real willingness to “do without.”</p>	<p>Our scorn for “egoists” starts in childhood. Parents call children who act as the parents want “good” but regard children who do not or who assert their individuality self-centered and selfish. Parents generally do not acknowledge that they are the egoists, using their child to live out their self-centered desires. Rather, they see their behavior as socializing their child and fulfilling their responsibility as parents. This treatment causes the child to fear that his parents will stop loving him, something no child wants to happen. To keep their love, the young child changes his behavior to be the opposite of egotistic: generous, self-sacrificing, placing the needs of others first, even though he is not yet mature enough to give selflessly or to suppress his own wishes and needs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parental egotism harms children, who adopt altruistic behavior too young, to avoid losing their parents’ love. 2. A child whose parents expect him to fulfill their narcissistic needs becomes selfless too young out of fear of losing their love.

¹ Michael Harrington, *The Other America: Poverty in the United States*. (Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1963).

² Alice Miller, *Prisoners of Childhood: The Drama of the Gifted Child and the Search for the True Self*, trans. Ruth Ward. (New York, 1981: rpt. New York: Basic Books, 1996).