Novels representing themes of the working class

The novel that illustrates the most loyalty to family is *Bastard out of Carolina* by Dorothy Allison published in 1992. Indeed, Dorothy Allison in this book showed us the two sides of loyalty. Those two sides can be named as positive loyalty and negative loyalty. To describe positive loyalty, I will refer it as being faithful and devoted to something or someone with a positive outcome in other word that does not affect badly someone else’s life. That side of loyalty was shown throughout the novel in the entire Boatwright family. As we could indeed see that they would always be there for each other and be supportive of one another in general when facing different type of situations. First, with Bone’s grandmother who would always keep an eye on her and Reese when Anney was at work or sometimes staying at one of her aunt’s house mostly Alma and sometimes Ruth before she passed away. As it is repeatedly mentioned throughout the book “before dropping us off to stay the day over at aunt Alma’s” (Dorothy Allison 29) but also her staying over at Aunt Ruth over the summer where she would repeatedly question Bone regarding her overall safety with Glenn on “Bone, has Daddy Glen ever… well… touched you?” (Dorothy Allison 144) those quotes show that they understand each other in difficult situation and are willing to step in and play a role no matter how small or big it is for the safety the family children no matter who or what they have to be against referring here to how her aunt Raylene and the entire family was quick to punish Glenn for all the abuse he had done

to the poor little girl. All those examples are proof of the loyal bond that they have with each other knowing that no matter what they can rely on each other. On the other side like mentioned earlier there is the negative loyalty which contrarily to the first one is more like an obstinate loyalty, regardless of whether it has a negative impact on people’s life or not. That description is indeed affiliated to Anney. She was indeed loyal to her husband Glenn regardless of all the pain, trouble and suffering he would cause to Bone and even the people surrounding them. Despite all the cry for help her daughter did to remove them from the situation “Could she love me and still hold him like that? Anything but not to lie bleeding while held him and cried” (Dorothy Allison 324) it was not enough for her to get back to her normal sense. This loyalty she had toward Glenn is the reason why I think Glen was even able to go that far in the abuse toward Bone because if she had left as soon as she was aware of all the things, he was doing to her daughter they would not have been in contact with anymore so he would not have the opportunity to behave the way he did. By showing deeply all the good and bad aspect of loyalty I think *Bastard out of Carolina* is the best representation of this theme.

The oppression of the upper class was best represented in *Christ in concrete* written by

Pietro Di Donato published in 1939. Indeed, Geremio’s family has been through a lot of injustices and oppressions throughout this novel. Mainly due to their status of immigrant and their inability to communicate properly in the language of the country they entered in this current situation English. Starting first with the priest who was not considerate toward Paul when he went and ask him for help. “I have nothing to do with charities. There is a board of trustees who confer and pass on every expenditure do you understand?” (Pietro Di Donato 83) while having a table food a table full of food beside him. Not that he had the obligation to help but for the position he is occupying and the value he is supposed to uphold as a priest, he was not inclined to genuinely help a family it needs when they have lost their main source of support. Another one would be when Paul was trying to find a job to support his family after the unfortunate event that occurred and decided to go at the same place his father was working at but then was underpaid

“Mister Rinaldi, we can’t do anything with my five dollars- oh, please, I can’t go home with my only five dollars…” (Pietro Di Donato 129) blaming the situation on the world and the corporation so above his reach. This is no normal salary for anyone especially while working in that dangerous environment, but despite the dangerousness of the job that caused the death of Geremio, the current situation of Paul having to take care of his entire family and his complains, they took advantage of the situation and found an opportunity to underpay an employee and them having the all the benefits. In this situation which is clearly an abuse of their power over Paul who does not have much choice but to comply with those rules because he cannot really find anything better than that so far based on his age and his level of education. Lastly, still in the same domain is the unfairness that the family had to face as the portion of money they were supposed to receive because of Geremio’s death as compensation. Once again, those same persons abused their power in face of the incapacity of the family to have a good and proper lawyer and the inability of Annunziata to speak and understand properly English. Let alone Paul who was too young to manage those matters. Murdin, Geremio’s boss lied on the job that Geremio was having and on how the incident happened so he will not have to pay the insurance money. This would have been able to be proven if the family had the right resource to conduct more research into the matter. Those actions are not only unfair but also illegal but due again to the position they are in it could not go any further. The family will then never have any type of justice to ease just for a bit this long list of oppression they had to face throughout their life.

*The Hunger Games* written by Suzanne Collins and published in 2008, was the novel which I thought depicted very well work to live and to eat which I think goes in pair grouping them both in work to survive. Without even going further into the book yet, the tittle of this novel talks for itself which is pretty obvious as to what this novel will be referring to. Indeed, the story itself is about how people should fight, and not in a metaphorical way, so they can have food on the table to eat. That is the main purpose of the game they have in that novel. On top of that when the finance gets extra tight for the families, the children have the opportunity to increase the odd of being chosen to participate in that game by getting in return some food. In other words, I will describe it as getting close to your death so you can have more food at home, “you become eligible for the reaping the day you turn twelve. your name is entered one. At thirteen twice and so on”. From children to adult no one is spared for the choice of candidate for this barbarian game. Starting with children very young as Prim and Rue was. They were only children who had the age of twelve which I think is too young to be participating in this kind of violent activities just so that their family and their district will be able to have enough food.

“Effie Trinket crosses back to the podium, …read out the name … It’s Primrose Everdeen” (Suzanne Collins 84). Traveling through Katniss thought we could see all the details of the miserable life that those people have to experiment including herself “For three days, we’d had nothing but boiled water with some old, dried mint leaves” (Suzanne Collins 28). This is very deplorable as situation because those people are literally starving which is not a normal way to live. And this shows how imperative it is for one to be working in that society because without it, they cannot eat so then survive, “District twelve, where you can starve to death in safety”

(Suzanne Collins 11). Those facts pushed the children and teenager taking the example of

Katniss and Gale to go out in the forest which is pretty dangerous to get some things so they would be able to eat or exchange to have something they need. They do not have the physical liberty to choose whether they want to participate in that game because even when they refuse to go, they are physically brutalized into going with their mentor. They on the other side do not really have a choice mentally but to do that job either, if I can be called that way because without it, their district would be penalized and will not have enough food to survive and that is very unfortunate for someone to have to be living under such pressure and condition just to feed themselves.