

Representation
in
'This is England'

Young people

- In this movie, I feel that young people are quite variable between 2 main attitudes, 1 being easily swayed and the other being incredibly stubborn.
- We can see this when first Shawn is quickly adapting to the skinhead life, also when Shawn and Gadget are persuaded to join the rally against Asian and other foreigners in England.
- However, we can see young people also stubborn and independent. We see this first when Shawn profusely refuses to wear the big trousers again and the shoes his mum wants to buy for him. We also see this from Woody and most of his gang when they refuse to join the rally.



Older people

- Older people act as the driving force in this movie, they take charge and can change the mood and tone of a scene instantly with power
- One example of this is when Shawn's mum enters the coffee shop, and the place turns silent when she starts speaking, showing how the young people can respect they're elders.
- Another example of this is during the rally speech. It is led by adults, and most of the audience are adults. Combo and others also have constant power over the young members in the gang, being able to manipulate or throw them out in moments and are feared.



Working class people

- Working class people in this film are treated generally poorly by the younger generation and gang members.
- One example where we can see this is when Shawn doesn't respect the woman at the clothes store by whining and ignoring her opinion.
- Another example of this is when Shawn only uses the shop to read a comic book without any intention of actually buying it.



English people

- English people in this film are greatly divided. Some who take undivided pride towards their country, and others who just want to live their lives, no matter of nationalities.
- An example of the prideful English are the members of the rally, who swear by their country, and strongly discriminate towards any non-English people.
- Shawn by the end of the film realizes that he can still be English without having to swear his entire life to hating all non-English people, and actually be able to live along side them



Asian and Black people

- Black and Asian people with this film are normally treated very poorly and are given little respect, and especially by the English rally group.
- This is shown first when Shawn arrives in the corner shop at the start of the movie, who only uses the man's store to read his comics with no intention of buying, and then again when Combo's gang steal all the man's products while threatening him with a blade.
- Another example is when Combo's group believes that they have far more right to the area to play football rather than the Asian kids who were playing there with their own ball.



Men

- Men in this film tend to act irrationally and over the top when trying to either entertain themselves or make their presence and power more dominant.
- This is first shown when Woody's gang go out to an abandoned house and wreck the place while dressed up ridiculously, emphasizing their immaturity, and lack of responsibility.
- The second example is when we witness the English rally, and we notice it is purely men who attended this rally, showing that a higher percentage of men to women in this film are more easily influenced by higher powers.



Women

- Women are commonly seen as lesser than men in this film, however, still can very much have power over them.
- One example of them being maid-like is when they're all dressing Shawn up, and all 3 of them are acting like his personal maids, and even though we don't see them being forced to do this, it could imply it's simply common for them now
- However, an example of them standing up for themselves is when Lol is open and truthful to Combo, she doesn't try to hide behind a loving façade, and this is able to drag Combo down emotionally.

