**Answer NO-02**

We can see father-son relationship on the novella “Seize the day” by Saul Bellow.

The novella “Seize the day” is a literary novel. It was written by an American author. Whose name was  [Saul Bellow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saul_Bellow). It was his fourth [novel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel). It was adapted into the [film of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seize_the_Day_(film)). It was published in 1956. Bellow was a bestselling writer known for his short plays and novels. He won various awards. Like many of Bellow’s other novels Seize the Day exhibits an ambivalent attitude toward worldly success, and it follows its sensitive, gullible protagonist’s quest for meaning in a chaotic and hostile world. The book spans at some point, following a jaded man as he searches for his [purpose in life.](https://goodstudy.org/the-sun-also-rises/) Critics praise the book for its depiction of humanity. This short [novel](https://www.britannica.com/art/novel) examines one day in the unhappy life of Tommy Wilhelm, who has fallen from [marginal](https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/marginal) middle-management respectability to unemployment, divorce, and despair. Saul Bellow once said that “Fiction is the higher autobiography.” And true to his words, Bellow infused his work with incidents and characters from his own life and beloved hometown of Chicago. It was a method that worked well: he has garnered more awards for his writing than any other American author, including the Nobel Prize in literature, three Pulitzer Prizes, and the Presidential Medal of Honor. In addition to using personal experience in his writing-shown to particularly good effect in his much-loved breakthrough novel The Adventures of Augie March-Bellow considered himself to be a “historian of society,” and his anthropological approach is apparent in critical and popular successes such as Henderson the Rain King, Herzog, and Mr. Sammler’s Planet.

[Saul Bellow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saul_Bellow) was a Canadian-American writer. He is the winner of the Nobel Prize for literature in 1976. He’s one of the most prominent post war novelists who has successfully composed his masterpiece, ‘Seize the Day’. He’s a Pulitzer-Prize laureate known for his novels featuring intellectually curious protagonists at odds with the contemporary world. He achieved worldwide acclaim and recognition throughout his career. Although he was born in [Canada](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Canada) and raised in [America](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/United_States), his writings traverse gender, race, and country. His novels echo the ideas of isolation, spiritual dissociation, and the importance of the human awakening. He remains one of the forerunners in shedding a positive light on the Jewish-American heritage. His characters are humorous, charming, a bit disillusioned, and slightly neurotic. Thus, his novels survive the passing of years as the universal themes continue to be applicable. Bellow cherished and championed Judeo-Christian religious values and scorned such studies as [absurdism](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Absurdism) and nihilism. He thought nothing was as important as simple, ordinary lives being lived as best the person could live. Bellow's best known work is The Adventures of Augie March, however, he won many awards and prizes, including the [Nobel Prize](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nobel_Prize) in Literature in 1976, for Humboldt's Gift. In the words of the Swedish [Nobel Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nobel_Committee), his writing exhibited "the mixture of rich [picaresque novel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Picaresque_novel) and subtle analysis of our culture, of entertaining adventure, drastic and tragic episodes in quick succession interspersed with philosophic conversation, all developed by a commentator with a witty tongue and penetrating insight into the outer and inner complications that drive us to act, or prevent us from acting, and that can be called the dilemma of our age." His best-known works include [The Adventures of Augie March](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Adventures_of_Augie_March), [Henderson the Rain King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henderson_the_Rain_King), [Herzog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herzog_(novel)), [Mr. Sammler's Planet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr._Sammler%27s_Planet), [Seize the Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seize_the_Day_(novel)), [Humboldt's Gift](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humboldt%27s_Gift), and [Ravelstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ravelstein" \o "Ravelstein). Bellow said that of all his characters, Eugene Henderson, of [Henderson the Rain King](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henderson_the_Rain_King), was the one most like himself. Bellow grew up as an immigrant from Quebec. As [Christopher Hitchens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Hitchens) describes it, Bellow's fiction and principal characters reflect his own yearning for transcendence, a battle "to overcome not just ghetto conditions but also ghetto psychoses." Bellow's protagonists wrestle with what Albert Corde, the dean in The Dean's December, called "the big-scale insanities of the 20th century." This transcendence of the "unutterably dismal", a phrase from [Dangling Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dangling_Man) is achieved, if it can be achieved at all, through a "ferocious assimilation of learning" and an emphasis on nobility. For much of his adult life, Saul Bellow was the most acclaimed novelist in America, the winner of, among other awards, the Nobel Prize in Literature, three National Book Awards, and the Pulitzer Prize. The Life of Saul Bellow, by the literary scholar and biographer Zachary Leader, draws on unprecedented access to Bellow’s papers, including much previously restricted material, as well as interviews with more than 150 of the novelist’s relatives, close friends, colleagues, and lovers, a number of whom have never spoken to researchers before. Through detailed exploration of Bellow’s writings, and the private history that informed them, Leader chronicles a singular life in letters, offering original and nuanced accounts not only of the novelist’s development and rise to eminence, but of his many identities-as writer, polemicist, husband, father, Chicagoan, Jew, American. Many critics argued that his work was too conventional and old-fashioned for the modern world. Criticized for trying to revive the nineteenth century European novel, some thought his characters too inconceivable, "larger than life," and simply the mouthpieces used by Bellow to spout his philosophical views and obsessions. Linguist Noam Chomsky, heavily criticized Bellow's To Jerusalem and Back: A Personal Account in his 1983 book, Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel & the Palestinians. Chomsky wrote, "he sees an Israel where ‘almost everyone is reasonable and tolerant, and rancor against the Arabs is rare,’ where the people 'think so hard, and so much’ as they ‘farm a barren land, industrialize it, build cities, make a society, do research, philosophize, write books, sustain a great moral tradition, and finally create an army of tough fighters.’" He also angered Palestinians when he praised Joan Peters' controversial book, From Time Immemorial, which challenged the conventional mythology of the Palestinian people. Perhaps his most controversial moment came with the publication of his 13th novel, Ravelstein. The story was of Abe Ravelstein, a university professor and intellect, as well as a closet homosexual who dies of an AIDS-related disease. It was no secret that Ravelstein's character was based on Bellow's close friend and colleague, [Allan Bloom](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Allan_Bloom), author of The Closing of the American Mind. When Bloom passed away in 1992, the officially announced cause of death was liver failure. But the novel sparked suspicion of a real-life drama. Bellow responded, "This is a problem that writers of fiction always have to face in this country. People are literal minded, and they say, 'Is it true? If it is true, is it factually accurate? If it isn't factually accurate, why isn't it factually accurate?' Then you tie yourself into knots, because writing a novel in some ways resembles writing a biography, but it really isn't. It is full of invention". In an interview in the March 7, 1988 New Yorker, Bellow sparked a controversy when he asked, concerning multiculturalism, "Who is the [Tolstoy](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Leo_Tolstoy) of the [Zulus](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Zulu)? The [Proust](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Marcel_Proust) of the [Papuans](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/New_Guinea)?" This nonchalant attitude towards the blacks met with public scorn. Many thought the comment was an unheralded criticism against non-Western literature. Bellow at first claimed to have been misquoted and decided to write his side of the story in the New York Times. In his later years, Bellow became known for his curmudgeon behavior and his honest, curt responses. For example, he once said, "California is like an artificial limb the rest of the country doesn't really need. You can quote me on that." Even though Bellow identified deeply with the city of Chicago, he often kept his distance from the city's conventional writers. Studs Terkel in a 2006 interview with Stop Smiling magazine said of Bellow: "I didn't know him too well. We disagreed on a number of things politically. In the protests in the beginning of [Norman Mailer's](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Norman_Mailer) Armies of the Night, when Mailer, [Robert Lowell](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Robert_Lowell), and Paul Goodman were marching to protest the [Vietnam War](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Vietnam_War), Bellow was invited to a sort of counter-gathering. He said, "Of course I'll attend." But he made a big thing of it. Instead of just saying OK, he was proud of it. So I wrote him a letter and he didn't like it. He wrote me a letter back. He called me a [Stalinist](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Stalinist). But otherwise, we were friendly. He was a brilliant writer, of course. I love Seize the Day."

The story begins with Tommy Wilhelm taking the escalator down to the lobby of the hotel that he is staying in to have breakfast with his father. With his 44 years, he feels out of place among the old people who frequent the hotel. Wilhelm has financial trouble, as his dream of becoming a movie star in Hollywood did not come true, and he lost his job a few months ago. He has to pay alimony for his children and wife, who does not want to divorce him so that she can get more money. As a last resort, he has given a power of attorney to a man called Tamkin, who impressed him so much with his knowledge of the stock exchange that he trusted him to invest his last dollars in lard. However, the price of the commodity keeps falling. Wilhelm had asked his father, a retired doctor who lives in the same hotel, many times for financial help but was declined every time. Nevertheless, his father keeps bragging about his son's fake achievements in front of others. Tired of his father complaining about his failures, Wilhelm goes to the stock market with Tamkin to check on his investments. At the same time, Tamkin gives him the time and emotional support that he did not get from his father, so Wilhelm stays with Tamkin even though he doubts his credibility.

In this novella we can see the relation of father-son relation. As a materialistic relationship between father and son in the context of the modern European countries. It is the story of Tommy Wilhelm, the protagonist of the novella whose life is blighted by his need to be loved by a father named Dr. Adler who is incapable of giving love. The novella ‘Seize the Day’ centres round Tommy Wilhelm who is a non-achiever and by conventional money standard, a complete failure and frustrated man of middle age. He is lonely, despairing, cut off not only from society but also from friends and wife. In his relationship with his father, Tommy is figuratively an orphan. In his case, his father aged, rich, successful Dr. Adler - is physically present but emotionally distant. Dr. Adler refuses to become involved in his son’s desperate loneliness. Family is the central ideal in Tommy’s life. However, it is here that he has experienced the taste of alienation from everyone around him except his mother. In fact, the father - son relationship gets highly complicated in Tommy - Dr. Adler relationship. Tommy seems the very antithesis of his father in respect of almost every measure. To Dr. Adler, love matters little; what counts is success, financial success. Tommy does not get the love and psychological as well as financial support he expects from his father. Tommy’s relationship with his father is not a consoling one rather a source of torment. Tommy’s whole life is a series of failures. He has made mistakes that his father never ceases to recall. Dr. Adler, from whom Tommy hopes to get financial help or at least some sign of sympathy but receives nothing from him but selfish advice. ‘Carry nobody on your back.’ He begs his father for love but Dr. Adler sprawls himself up and rejects his son. Being vulnerable emotionally and financially, Tommy clings to Dr. Tamkin as to a sinking lifeboat. Tamkin appears to have the sensitivity and insight Tommy cannot find in his father. However, here too Tommy faces a great shock from his fairy godfather.

To conclude, there is no denying the fact that ‘Seize the Day’ is a modern psychological study of fragile bonding of the family life of the 20th century where relationship between father and son is vividly presented. However, the story ends not in fragments but with a vision of oneness of all towards the consummation of one’s merging with God, a figure that has traditionally been considered as father of humankind.

This is how we can see father-son relationship on the novella “Seize the day” by Saul Bellow.