Cry, the Beloved Country is a novel that explores the concept of hope, particularly in South Africa during apartheid. Characters like Stephen Kumalo, James Jarvis, and Theophilus Msimangu demonstrate the potential for goodness in humankind, overcoming hatred and taking the first steps to mend a broken nation. The novel, published by a white writer during apartheid, highlights the social class divide in South Africa, with white people being wealthy and powerful and black people being poor and oppressed. Despite the tense and fragile society, the novel's message is one of hope.