

Belonging – 327
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'The scream' and 'the simple gift' represents the impact on an individual's sense of belonging in various ways. The term belonging is basically a human conception that is mostly considered as a fundamental part of society and a source of safety, survival, protection and happiness. The simple gift written by Steven Herrick and the scream painted by Edward Munch significantly shapes the understanding of alienation and relationships, feeling not connected within society, family and friends. Alienation is basically a state or experience of being isolated from a group towards a lack of identity, however, relationships is the way in which two or more concepts or people are being connected in a positive or negative situation. The novel and painting deal with lack of relationship and the feeling of being isolated. The viewer develops a strong connection to the idea of alienation and relationships as impacted on belonging.

Alienation is one of the key concerns evident through the simple gift and the scream. However, in regards to the simple gift, Billy one of the main character is being represented as poor and relies on the Bendarar river to clean himself, which shows he has almost nothing, but makes the most of everything. "There's a weir, where the water falls swiftly over rocks and forms whirl pools and bubbles and makes more noise." This is referred to as a metaphor of washing the world away. When Billy enters the river, he's not washing his physical body, he's relieving his past emotional experiences by "washing the world away" escaping his worries and fears. Moreover, before Billy moving on in his life, he feels quite isolated and alone from family and friends, and the community surrounded by him.

“ I lay in bed, listening, afraid to fall asleep and dream again of myself getting old long before my time. ” This particular quote highlights the emotion and fear of the future, and introduces the themes of insecurity to Billy. Through the characterisation, there was a granted insight into Billy’s perspective during his transition to a new home and fearing he will live the life of the hobo like Old Bill throughout all his life. Old Bill is another well know main character in the novel who is left alone feeling isolated from everyone after the death of his daughter and wife. Similarity, “ the scream” that is a painting representing alienation indeed. Its is a painting with many feedback and representing many aspects of not belonging.

Alienation has been evidently shown within the man, which is the main focus of the portrait, symbolising negative emotions. This is evident displayed through the vector line leading us to the person in the foreground, which in that displaying isolation towards the main image of the person due to the distance between the two figures. On the other hand, the composition, colours and dramatic use of perspective, the undulating curves of the landscape and hollow figures personify alienation and anxiety. The dull colours surrounding the man symbolises not acceptance in society and isolation amongst everyone.

In comparison, both the simple gift and the scream have highly represented the concept of alienation through the use of negativity shown within their facial expressions and the sense of non acceptance, especially through the emotions on the characterisations significantly displayed through dull colours from the painting and emotive language from the novel. Without a doubt, this has clearly represented the impact of alienation on an individuals sense

of belonging. Relationships is another key concern evident through the simple gift and the scream. In consideration to the novel, relationships has been displayed towards Billy and his father quite strongly and effectively, where one feels alone and not welcomed in the community. For instance, Billy's father is represented as an alcoholic, having no interest in life whatsoever, and Billy feeling not welcomed in the house, but decides to move on with his life by creating positive decisions that'll improve his relationship between him and his father. The old bastard will have a kit.

" This specific quote demonstrates a source of slang and colloquial language to help us relate and connect with the character. The quote also shows the lack of a positive relationship Billy has with his father. Nevertheless, Billy's father also shows his son a lack of respect and humanity, however, Billy decides to move out and find a new life and a new place to stay. " see ya dad. I've taken the alcohol.

Drink that instead to celebrate your son leaving home. " sarcasm has been displayed, which reveals more about the character and emphasises the reality. Billy also shows a lack of enthusiasm, feeling depressed and not knowing what will lie ahead of his life, representing not belonging. In contrast, the scream has displayed a sense of lack in relationship.

It is a painting showing depression and excess of emotions and rebellion against anything that can be imposed on individuals and personal dignity. The close up shot/mid ground image on the main figure represents his emotions and how he is being ignored by his surrounding, acting like nothing seems to be taking place really. Similarly, the two figures represent the long

distance relationship they have with their friend, who is personified as the main character. This indeed reveals a long distance relationship with a lack of sympathy towards one another. On the other hand, the dull colours signify the depression and uncertainty of any humankind, as well as the vector lines leading us to the figure in the background, representing a negative relationship. The dull colours are being used to help us have a clearer understanding of what the image is really telling us, and displaying the emotions that provide us with many meaningful features.

In comparison between the simple gift and the scream is basically that they both describe negative relationships through use of colours, facial expressions and descriptive language that deepen the readers mind.

Emotion have been thoroughly sen within the main character of the painting the novel had described emotive language through descriptive language.

However, the scream and the simple gift have represented the impact of relationships on an individuals sense of belonging. To conclude, the simple gift and the scream have undeniably shaped my understanding of alienation and relationships through the use of emotive and descriptive language, dull colours, camera angles and the vector lines representing many aspects of not belonging and clearly impacting the conception of belonging. By viewing and understanding, the painting and novel predominately represented the impact of not belonging through alienation and lack of relationship on an individuals sense of belonging.