

Josephine alibrandi

Family



In the novel *Looking For Alibrandi* by marlena marchetta, Josephine Alibrandi (also known as Josie) is a typical 17 year old in her H. S. C year at St Martha's, during the course of this year her understanding about life around her changes and so does her views on the people she loves most.

Throughout the novel we see a great change in Josephine from a selfish and uncaring girl to a caring more sensitive young lady. Her life changes dramatically throughout the year as she slowly changes and learns to cope with the changes of others. Throughout this novel Josephine and her family struggles with cultural differences in Australia and acceptance into the Italian community leaving Josephine desperate to become socially acceptable within her culture, family life and school life. . Josephine Alibrandi grew up in a Italian community; although not completely accepted into this community because she was the result of a affair her mother had when she was 16, josie still felt that this community understand her family life, her culture and the way she lived; quote on page 7 " they were Italian and greek and we ruled the primary school. They were on my level. I related to them". Josie felt that har and ever one else from her primary were in the same boat and were " all caught up in the middle of two societies" page 7. Josie doesn't feel that that the girls at St Martha's are " on her level" and can understand her like the kids from primary school did. She feels like thins because of the cultural difference between her primary school and her high school. In high school josie is on scholarship at St Martha's surrounded by girls of anglo saxon origin she feels like she will never fit in and be accepted by all of them because of her origin and because she could only afford to go to the school because she was on a scholarship. Quote page 8 " it makes me feel like I will never be part of there society and I hate that because im just as smart as <https://assignbuster.com/josephine-alibrandi/>

they are" all josie wants to fit in and be liked by her peers and even though she was originally voted school captain but instead given the post as vice captain she ignores the fact that she was voted by her fellow students and is actually in fact quite popular and is a trend setter within the school. Sister Louise tells josie on page 184 that she has to "learn that sometimes you have to keep your mouth shut, because what you do reflects on this school and on me and others" this was a shock to josie because she didn't believe she had an impact on others. Throughout the book the reader becomes aware about how hard it was for josie's nonna to adapt to the Australian environment. Josephine's nonna was just a young girl still in her teen years she was forced to leave her home in Italy, away from her family, her friends and away from the culture she so dearly loved. Josie's nonna was forced to move to a land that was unknown to her. Nonna "hated Australia for the first year. No friends. No people who spoke the same language as me." The poem "Integrated" reinforces that immigrants like nonna found it difficult to assimilate and in many ways resisted the culture they were exposed to when they first arrived in Australia. The greek grandmother "bought her country with her/in packing cases" there for surrounding herself with possessions from her homeland to promote a sense of security in this strange environment. Her resistance to the new language like nonna is reflected in the informative language employed by the poet.. she shouts advice to her daughter in the tongue of her youth... .. however like josie the grandchild embraces her homeland seeking out her true identity amongst the any icons of this country. In conclusion in Looking For Alibrandi by marlena marchetta it is now evident that the Australian cultural barriers and differences are

shown and it and the struggles of living in a malty cultural society that Australia is.