

Belonging



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Belonging to a social group builds character and identity and can only be fulfilled when it is effectively comprehended. Belonging is a complex idea that is very rarely defined as solely belonging or not belonging, but rather somewhere between these extremities. Raymond Gait's "Romulus, My Father," a story about a struggle to belong to family and culture, and Tim Burton's "Edward Scissorhands," a story of an outcast, who fails to conform to a community, incorporate distinctive techniques and devices to thoroughly present the idea of belonging.

There is a great significance in longing to yourself, your name, honor and reputation. In Gait's "Romulus, My Father" Raymond and Romulus are mentally and physically imprisoned in this foreign land, and the Australian vastness challenges their European senselessly. Gait enforces this by incorporating motifs. The description and discussion of landscape become a recurring motif for belonging. Romulus creates a series of relationships in which he feels he belongs, but is never fully reconciled to Australia.

Likewise, Tim Burton's "Edward Scissorhands" displays a similar sort of alienation towards one character, but for differing reasons. Edward's characteristics are immediately juxtaposed with that of the vibrant and motley neighborhood. Before Edward is even introduced into the film, his exile towards fellowship has already been foreshadowed. This is portrayed when the character, Peg, gazes into her rear view mirror to reveal Edward's dark, immoral house in comparison with the motley neighborhood.

Once Edward has been introduced into the film, it is conspicuous that Burton has used his presentation as a technique to strongly portray his indifference.

The use of tight black clothes, his pale face, and his nonsensical, paginate-like hair vigorously juxtaposes the background of bright, lollipop colors. The main visual disturbance of Edward is his scissor hands. Essentially, Burton has focused on his image effectively in order to spark a true sense of not belonging. Gait uses the memoir as a vehicle for examining the often-complex relationship between the migrant family and their new home in Australia.

There is an emphasis in the text of the different feelings of belonging and alienation that father and son feel towards Australia. Gait uses descriptions of landscape to communicate this. Raymond describes being initially influenced by his father's attitudes. However, this changes as he matures and becomes comfortable with the Australian bush. For Raymond to have grown into conformity he first needed to understand his surroundings and work his way through it to feel integrated.

Additionally, Gait uses philosophical reflections to emphasize the importance of each particular juncture. The narrative moves from events to meditations of these events, and on many occasions the tense changes from past to present, indicating that these events have had a lasting effect on Gait's consciousness. It also positions the reader to compare contexts, Australia how it was then and Australia now. Gait applies these approaches to effectively encapsulate the reader for full empathy to be felt among these characters.

As the film, "Edward Scissorhands" progresses, Edward, using his talent cutting trees and styling hair, generates a sensation of belonging to a

community. He rids of the black clothes and gets given a white, collared shirt. Despite show that belonging is not all about appearance. His facial expressions and quiet personality still draws him out of integration with the community. This can relate to doth texts that I have chosen in saying that belonging is not attained as easily as can first be perceived.

There is a great significance in belonging to yourself, honor and reputation. Although Edward may physically conform, his expressions and emotions overpower his physical appearance in showing his true displacement. In "Romulus, My Father" the bond between father and son is represented not only by the events described in the memoir, but more significantly through the composition of the memoir itself. The strong feeling of belonging between Raymond and Romulus is conveyed through the passion in Gait's writing about his father.

Despite this feeling of belonging the frequent descriptions of the landscape communicate that Romulus never feel completely at home in Australia. " Though the landscape may seem like one of rare beauty, to the European or English eye it seems desolate. " This proves that belonging is not easy to attain and there are many elements and features to experience a complete sense of belonging. Considering both of these texts and their features, the main perspective of belonging is shared. Belonging will almost certainly be encapsulated when you are integrated with your surroundings and ambiance.