

# The lone ranger and tonto fistfight in haven essay



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Victor Joseph appears as an individual constantly under struggle to establish his real identity in a land, which he considers to be foreign to the ideal of his 'Indian' roots. In this struggles Victor expresses bitterness and despair in various circumstances of the transition between his childhood and adulthood. Victor's reminisces about his previous girlfriend when he is confronted by her similar looks from the 7-11 clerk during the 'graveyard shift', during which he describes how he would jump into his vehicle and drive off after a fight (Alexie, 2005). Moreover, there are times when Victor ultimately appears to be at conflict with his identity, which ultimately manifests in real life events. We see this in his quote: " Sometimes, though, I would forget where I was and get lost. I'd drive for hours searching for something familiar" (Alexie, 2005, p. 24). Such experiences would make him angry and would sometimes end up in fierce battles with his ' friends', for example during bully events in school. During his first grade, Victor encounters Frenchy who then decides to throw snowballs, and Victor pounces on him and beats him up seriously (Alexie, 2005).

Victor adopts a discriminative nature, for example, he tends to refute claims from fellow Indians who seem to be lacking in certain Indian descriptions. We see this when he decides to leave the Waitress he met at the Bread strand and Powwow on account of the fact that she does not portray real Indian traits even after initially getting close to her (Alexie, 2005). In addition, Victor appears to be in a hot pursuit to attain a certain lifestyle and longs to reconnect with his ' Indian' roots. This can be seen in Victor's statement: "... a good day to die and a good day to play the piano" (Alexie, 2005, p. 146). Here he virtually expresses the differences in his present circumstances and

when he is playing "the piano". He further illustrates when playing the piano, by focusing on the beauty of the black hair found on an Indian boy and the hidden beauty found on cracked piece of glass (Alexie, 2005)