

# Simple gift essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Simple how does belonging emerge from connection to people? In both the simple gift, a collection of poems by Steven heroic and UP a Paxar film directed by Pete Doctor connections to people are present. In the simple gift the characters Old Bill and Billy have a similar connection to Carl and Russell. These connections lead to both groups sharing a feeling of belonging when they are together. Billy is a sixteen year old boy who has a lack of connection to his family and alcoholic father as well as a lack of connection to place, although he feels a connection with tauter. N the poem “ Longhand Road” Billy says “ I throw one rock on the roof of each deadbeat, no-hoper, stitches, lonely, downtrodden house in Longhand Road”. This shows the audience how much he doesn’t care about his community in a condescending and bitter tone. In order to counteract this lack of belonging Billy goes down to the creek in his spare time and chooses to belong there Billy decides to pack his bags and leave home. When he gets to bender he decides to stay there. This gives him a chance to start a new life. I wait for the three whistles to dump me in another state, miles from home and school” this shows the importance of being very far away from his home town and violent, alcoholic father. Like Billy, Russell from up is a young boy who enjoys to be in nature, he is a wilderness explorer, an only child with an unclear family background. His dad is mostly absent although unlike Billy, Russell looks up to him in every way and yet there is no real connection between them. Old Bill for Billy however is a friend.

Old bill is an old man who suffers trauma due to the loss of his daughter Jessie and his wife. This led Old Bill to ‘ homelessness’ as his home reminds him too much of his daughter and wife bringing him to the streets turning to

alcohol to hide the pain. He says " and this pub, this beer, these clothes, this is where I landed". The use of repetition of the word " this" emphasizes that " this" is where old bill started off his new life as a homeless, alcoholic man. Like old bill, Carl is also an elderly man who lives alone after the love of his life Elli passes away.

They both had a dream to travel together to paradise falls but this didn't happen. When Elli and Carl were together they were always so happy shown through the body language so obvious in long shots, the extreme close up of Carla facial expressions before lilies death shows the juxtaposition and contrast of feelings showing the audience how much of an impact Elli had on Carla life and emotions. After Lilies death Carl shut himself away from society in his house that still holds all the memories of Elli. Or Billy, the first time he sees old bill is in the poem " the hobo hour" he has just dropped a whole bottle of alcohol. Billy says " I didn't know whether to leave him be or ay sorry' " then I remember dads carton of cigarettes in my bag. I don't smoke" Billy then comes into contact with old bill and offers his cigarettes as an act of kindness. The use of the adverb then' indicates that Billy made a quick decision to " rush back to the Cambridge" to get cigarettes for old bill. Retreating an opportunity for belonging between them. The first time Russell comes into contact with Carl shows similarity to Billy and Old bill. Russell tries to offer Carl assistance for a helping the elderly badge, however Carl does not want any help, he says " no" and slams the door. His facial expression on Carla face as well as his tone of voice when he keeps repeating the word no shows that he is very annoyed he had to come and answer the door for Russell. His shows that he has chosen not to be a part of

the community as he doesn't want anything to do with this small child trying to help the elderly. After Billy gives old bill cigarettes old bill says " I almost cried, a kid like that with nothing giving stuff away' this shows a turning point in old bills life, he is starting to show his feelings. Along the way Billy and Old bill become closer, and after working gather Billy can go to Old bill for advice because he finally has a connection with someone showing that his life, is looking up. Hen the police confront Billy and schedule a meeting with DOCS after finding out he's living out of home alone old bill realizes it is his turn to help. " when I saw him I felt something I hadn't felt in years, I felt pride" this shows that what old bill was doing for Billy made him feel so proud because he realized how much it would help. Old bill gave the keys of his old house for Billy to live in. He was ready to let go of his bitter past while helping Billy out.