

Those with power
shape reality



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The reality that people experience can be shaped by those with power. From governments, to police force and even including fiction writers and the media, they have the ability to influence the reality experienced by different people in society. This power manipulation extends to those with different ethnic backgrounds, socio-economic status, and religion. Chloe Hooper, in writing, *The Tall Man*, had the power over the reader by selecting what to include in her story.

In the book Chloe also shows the power that the police force and the justice in the role of shaping peoples reality. The media have the power to changes peoples decisions and opinions. The government have the power to impose laws and regulations that alter the way we live. Chloe Hooper's *The Tall Man* demonstrates how power shapes reality in very different ways Firstly it shows authorial power Anybody who constructs a piece of writing to be read by many people has the power to construct a reality. This is clearly evident in *The Tall Man*.

Chloe Hooper had the power to choose what content to put in her book. The book therefore offers her understanding of the events that led to before and after Cameron Doomadgee's death, which influences our understanding and interpretation of the incident. The reader is left with the strong sense that an injustice has taken place. This is created purely by what she has selected to put in her book, and in what she has decided to write her book. Like any author/journalist, they have the power to influence the reader's reality.

The Tall Man also depicts another type of power influencing reality; how the police force and the justice system had the power to shape the realities of people in the Aboriginal community. The police forces that patrol Palm Island

plays a significant role in shaping the reality of the citizens. The police force should be protecting the lives of their citizens and should be treating them all with respect, but in Palm Island, it is evident that the police have used brutality toward their citizens and have oppressed aboriginal populations and culture.

Even the aboriginal police could not even arrest someone as they hold little or no real authority. The justice system had the power to send Lex Wotton an aboriginal to jail for rioting that the police force was corrupt, even though Chris Hurley was found not guilty for manslaughter when there is ample evidence suggesting influenced the death of an aboriginal man. This shows how the jury was bias to their race and how they had the power to shape both the realities of Chris Hurley and Lex Wotton. The media plays a massive role in influencing our society.

They have the power to shape the beliefs and opinions of everyone. People are constantly exposed to thousands of images of violence; advertisements, celebrities and much more which are used to secretly manipulate the way we do things and how we think. We make our decisions on what products to buy or what services to hire based on the media, whether it is seen on TV, or read in newspapers and magazine. Some people will make their decision based on what other people are buying; however these decisions are originally based on the media.

The media also creates the ideal image of beautiful women and men, it tells you what characteristic successful people are and how people should look and dress. This results in people buying new products and clothes to look the way the ' ideal' person looks. Some even go to the lengths of starving

themselves to be like the image the media condones. One thing that's a way of life for one man or women becomes a new value for another, thanks to the media, this is showing how the media has the power to change ones reality. The government plays a vital role in shaping our realities.

The government has the power to enforce laws, change policies and influence our economical situation. In the current election both parties have shared their views which, in itself, has the power to change our perception of who we think should come to power, which could ultimately change our reality. For example if liberal comes to power they can enforce work choices which changes the employees rights and enable employers to be in charge. It could result in people becoming unemployed or leaving under the poverty line, which would change someone's reality.

On the other hand if labor comes to power they want to reduce the carbon emissions, resulting in higher costs for amenities affecting every household. This shows whoever is in government has the power to shape our day to day lives through regulations Our realities can be altered by those who have power shown the through the book the tall man, where the author had the power to shape our beliefs. It is shown through the media where they manipulate what we buy. The government also shapes our reality by the laws, and policies that they implement. Through all these factors it is clear that those with power have the ability to change our reality.