

The story of tom brennan



The story of Tom BrennanThe story of Tom Brennan by J.

C. Burke explores a number of themes which revolve around the central concept of transition and the unpredictability of change of which you have no control. Burke transcribes how these transitions affect the characters' attitudes, beliefs and views of the world. The themes of guilt, fear, depression are explored through the lives of the Brennan family, primarily through the eyes of Tom Brennan, the central character of the novel. The notion of change and guilt is also conveyed through the visual poster 'Tattoo'™, an RTA advertisement, which explores the implications of a forced change and how that irrevocably changes your life forever. Forced change through a catastrophic event is similarly reflected in the film 'Looking for Alibrandi' which explores the journey of Josie Alibrandi, a young Italian girl, who struggles with cultural and family expectations and how she matures and adapts to change, ultimately finding her self-identity. The story of Tom Brennan begins with the Brennan family leaving the town of Mumbilli shrouded in secrecy; in a couple of hours they would wake and find us gone, far away, so as to not remind them of their pain and what our family meant to this town™.

This quote clearly illuminates the guilt and shame that the Brennans, once respected and cherished family in the community of Mumbilli were now experiencing. Through the tragic accident where 2 teenagers died and Fin (cousin) caused by Daniel, the Brennan's lives had been changed forever. Deep emotions of guilt, grief, anger and resentment were building within the family and community. In the RTA advertisement 'Tattoo'™, the image of a man with the tattoo across his forehead, killing someone

on a pedestrian crossing stays with you forever???. This visual metonym conveys the idea that your life will irrevocably change forever and that the images and sounds are indelibly imprinted on your brain, just like a tattoo. The direct haunting gaze of the tattooed man with dark circles around his eyes convey the guilt he has felt and continues to feel.

The image below depicts the tragic accident that can be likened to an earthquake as the epicentre, from which the seismic shockwaves emanate shattering the lives of many individuals as well as whole communities which have irreparable damage. Depression descends on the Brennan family due to the struggle to come to terms with their new life in Cog hill and the event that forced them to leave the town they loved. Darkness or black is a repeated motif through this novel depicted the state of despair they now find themselves in.

Tom refers to his room at his grandma??™s as a dark cave with brown walls which reflects the sense of hopelessness he now finds himself confronting. Tom also metaphorically refers to the long black tunnel which depicts the depressive state he is experiencing with no solution or reprieve. Theresa (tom??™s mum) also is experiencing depression, grief and guilt and was not coping. Burke conveys this strongly to the audience through this quote ??? She didn??™t see me. How could she under all those covers This rhetorical question suggests that Theresa had withdrawn from life and her family and was deeply traumatized, overcome with emotions of grief, guilt and depression. These same sentiments are conveyed in the film ??? Looking for Alibrandi??™ when John Barton(Josie??™s friend and love interest)commits

suicide and Josie is left dealing with the aftermath of loss and descends into a depressive state, ??? If John can??™t make it, then no one can??!..

??™ This belief portrays the insurmountable challenge she faces in moving forward with her life, dealing with grief and taking a new direction. This image strongly depicts the sense of hopelessness. The black framing creates a sense of doom and that there is no way out . The central figure with a bowed head and black silhouette conveys the sense of defeat and that depression and grief is all consuming.