

# The endless steppe essay



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“ Knowing is not enough, we must apply. Willing is not enough, we must do.

” (Johann von Goethe) “ The Endless Steppe” by Esther Hautzig is a novel about a family’s determination to survive. In the novel it tells of how determination, the human ability to adapt, and happiness can hold a family together and help them even preserve over all odds. In addition, “ The Endless Steppe” tells of Reisa, Ryia, and Esther tales of how they overcame these ordeals and survived in Siberia in their own way. The theme of this book is that the human capacity to adapt to and find happiness in the most difficult circumstances. Each character in the novel shows this in their way. For instance, their family is randomly taken from their home and forced to work but they still remain a close nit family.

In addition, they even manage to stick together after being separated for one of their own. These show how even in the darkest time they still manage to find a glimmer of hope and they pursued on. The first person that illustrated the theme of the book was Esther’s grandmother Reisa. Reisa showed this by always keeping her pride and her dignity even the toughest of times, which helped her and her family move on. For instance, even when they were forced to live on these camps she would always try to look her best. She always wore a silk dress and did her cuticles.

In addition, she also illustrates theme by caring for her families even in the toughest of time by keeping them together and raising their spirits. For instance, when Esther lost the rubbles her mother gave she said, “ She is only twelve years old, she helps keep house like a little old woman, she studies like a Talmudic scholar, she carries bricks back and forth. No. Enough

is already too much. Esther, there is nothing more you can do that I will permit you to do. Just do well at school, that's all I ask.

The way things are you will need every drop of education you can get. For the rest, you leave the rubles to me. " That is how Reisa illustrated the theme of the book by maintaining her appearance and by caring for her family. The second person that illustrated the theme of the book was Esther's mother Raya.

Raya showed this by always keeping a positive attitude, which raises the spirits around her. For instance, in the novel her husband went off to war, his entire battalion was wiped out and everyone had given up hope of him returning except for her. She kept saying, " Be sure to get some farmer's cheese, the kind he adores. " Her positive attitude paid off in the end after everyone thought she was grief ridden she proved them wrong when he returned. In addition, her positive attitude did pay off again when he husband was thought to be lost in a when he did not return for work.

Everyone was starting to be worried and lose hope but she continued to hope and believe and tell the others to and he returned again. That is how Raya illustrated the theme of the book by maintaining her positive attitude and encouraging others around her with it. The third person that illustrated the theme of the book was Esther. Esther showed the theme of the book by the ability to accept change and her love for her family, which held them together.

For instance, when she was forced for her home on the train she was scared and she did not know what the future held for her but she pursued on. She

even did not even complain in situations that other people would. In addition, she also had to endure not having her own space, new roommates, even different schools, and making new friend. However, even through all that she perused on and prospered with a little help from those stated above and her friends. In addition, through all this she still loved her family deeply even through all the ups and downs. That is how Esther illustrated the theme of the book by her ability to accept change, her love for her family and held them together.

Therefore in conclusion, each of these characters illustrated the theme in their own way. Reisa showed this by always keeping her pride and her dignity even the toughest of times, which helped her and her family move on. Reisa did this by always wearing a silk dress and doing her cuticles. Raya showed this by always keeping a positive attitude, which raises the spirits around her.

Raya did this by never giving up hope even in the most horrible times. Esther showed the theme of the book by her ability to accept change and love for her family, which held them together. Esther did this by adapting to her new environment and loving her family. That is what the theme of this novel is and how these three characters illustrated the theme in their own way.