

How Does an Individual's Perspective of, and Response to, a Crisis define him or her (1)

by Marka How Does An Individual's Perspective Of, And Respo

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How an Individual's Perspective of, and Response to, a Crisis define him or her?

The short story 'The Rabbits' written by Shaun Tan and John Marsden is one of the stories that talks about the conducts and mannerisms of individuals. Tan narrates a story which acts as the basis of how an individual can cope with a crisis; he relates with the reader as he explains how is threatened not be paid if he does not prolong the story. The short story highlights the manner in which an individual reacts and responds to a conflict, enabling us to observe and experience their personality. This helps us to identify them as normal individuals and to experience their different approaches to life and their diverse set of thinking.

Tan introduces the audience to the aboriginals and the rabbits who have different ways of living indicating that they were able to make their different choices in their lifestyles. The aboriginals are farmers and are used to living in the comfort of their homes doing their daily economic activity. The aboriginals used to live in the trees, and they spoke a very different language to that of the rabbits. They were calm animals who did not like to ruffle feathers. The rabbits came by boat from the sea and spoke a different language from that of the aboriginals (Tan & Marsden 90). They were troublesome animals, and they angered the aboriginals as they took their lands and started farming them. While the aboriginals lived in the trees, the rabbits cut them down to make their homes. This shows they were different animals with different cultures.

The aboriginals' elders had warned them that the rabbits would come and take away their lands and make them their homes. They were peaceful people, but they were losing their lands, their children, their homes, and women to the rabbits. They were faced with a choice to fight for what belonged to them. The rabbits were forcing them to understand their language because they could not understand theirs. If they maintained the status quo, they could lose all they had, and they will remain homeless. They were faced with a choice of fighting to regain what they had inherited from their ancestors. The rabbits had to fight to keep their land fertile, maintain the culture that the white rabbits were eroding, protect what they believed was theirs.

The short story shows us how people make their choices when faced with problems. The aboriginals are faced with a crisis as they are losing their homes to the white rabbits. They are known to live in peace, but if they do not wake up and fight, then they will lose all they own. Therefore, they have to fight to preserve their cultures, take care of their homes, go back to farm in their lands, and much more. They lose the fight to the white rabbits because they are superior; therefore, they are forced to serve under them. They are in a crisis as they expected to save their homes, but they lost, so they will have to cope with the new conditions of living. ¹ This alludes that the choices individuals make in life will affect the people around them and it shows us how they deal with crises.

Tan creates a situation whereby the aboriginals will be faced with a hard choice to make. They are to either remain silent as it is their nature since they are peaceful and conserved animals or fight which they are not warriors. They will have to go against their values to protect something so special to them, their history and existence. This shows that people are willing to go an extra mile even if it is against what they believe in, to guard what is theirs. They are faced

with a choice of preserving their culture or sit down and watch it as it is eroded by the white rabbits.

Works Cited

Marsden, John & Shaun Tan. *The Rabbits*. *Lothian Books*. 1998.

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