

Evaluation Essay

Sherman Joseph Alexie is a poet, writer, and a filmmaker. Most of his writing is drawn from his experiences as a Native American. Most of his works has won several awards. "The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" was his first young adult novel that won an award in 2007. This novel begins as a journal of his life and family. The main focus of the novel is on a fourteen years Indian named Arnold Spirit. This novel can be classified as semi-autobiographical since it includes several events and elements. The novel depicts numerous issues that Sherman went through when growing up, but he has put them in such a way that the reader can easily understand because his ideas are communicated like a friendly conversation in an informal setup. The Issue that Sherman has emphasized on in this novel includes hydrocephalus a condition that contributes to the theme of bullying, which is clearly seen in the way children with such conditions are mistreated and bullied. At reservation school, he was bullied about his health condition, but when he transferred to Reardan School, he had to deal with ethnicity and physical condition bully.

As mentioned earlier, Sherman wrote about his life and family experiences in "The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian." Sherman was born with hydrocephalus condition. Arnold, Alekie's

representative, was born with excessive cerebrospinal fluid in the skull. This caused him a lot of physical problems such as oversized head, too skinny, poor eyesight among others. These problems exposed him to mistreatment from other students. He was beaten up regularly and had unfair nicknames such as retard (due to brain damage he had sustained), and globe (due to large size of his head). His family was poor and the parents were irresponsible thus they could not available to protect him. However, his life in reservation was brightened by Rowdy, his tough friend.

Although Rowdy was regularly abused by his father, he remained a true friend to Arnold protecting him from some of the physical abuses. Arnold learnt that life in reservation was so poor since they could not afford to give basic learning requirements such as text books. The books that were used in reservation school were too old. The incidence that revealed this fact was when Arnold was given a book with her mother name an illustration that the book was thirty years older than him. This triggered the urge to transfer to Reardan High School.

Arnold relationship with Rowdy was affected by the transfer thus he was not interested with his social life. Arnold's effort to speak about his crush on Penelope, but there was strain. Since he was the only Indian in the school, he was discriminated in most of social affairs. The school had many rich students from the countryside. Alekie was the only poor Native student in a school full of rich Caucasian people. In his new school, he faced less bullying as compared to the former. Although he

had some acceptance, the fear of losing his social class kept haunting him. He accepted that he was a target of bullying due to his physical condition, family background, and ethnicity. He admitted these facts in a comic and sympathetic manner. He tends to engage the readers in sharing and relating with his experience.

In conclusion, Alekie writes about his life experience using some other characters. Bullying and ethnicity were the main issues that gave him rough experience in school. Bullying was as a result of his physical appearance, which was as a result of medical condition. Ethnicity contributed to his social life in Reardan High School because he was the only Indian Student in the school. Again he was from a poor family while as all the other students were from rich backgrounds. He tried to gain identity by relating to the person from his race, who was only in a Mascot sport, which was also from native origin.