

ENGLISH STANDARD: *THE STORY OF TOM BRENNAN*

When transitioning into new world, individuals encounter obstacles that requires sacrifice. Conversely, from taking opportunities in the process of being from hardships, individuals develop maturity. These concepts are undoubtedly explored within J. C. Burke's evocative novel "The Story of Tom Brennan" and in enlightening animations "Spirited Amy" by Miyazaki. Both texts express how the characters' new experiences floor their emotions with depression and fear. Nonetheless, the texts also demonstrate how today opportunities enhance their maturity and solve their problems. Through the composers' selected powerful features, the text reveals a high level of authenticity which creates a profound response in the audience whilst portraying the notion that "venturing on a different path requires negotiation between sacrifice and opportunity".

In "The Story of Tom Brennan", we are able to see Tom's sacrifices of his old self when venturing on a new path. In the text, not only does the loss of David form a barrier for Tom following his initial attitudes, but also the move from Mumbilli to Coghill. Thus tom experiences extreme depression which is portrayed through metaphorical motif in his thoughts of a "black tunnel", as it represents guilt and pain. This motif is further reinforced by another cohesion of dark, portrayed through the emotive words "die", "darkness", and "no justice". Then the two motifs link cohesively to the flashbacks of the "sudden death" in order to reveal that Tom is emotionally affected from the obstacle provided by Daniel's tragic error from perceiving the impact on Tom. Though the persuasive plot structure of the imagery, we are able to understand that many in the world requires sacrifice of one's inner self.

Similarly, the notion of sacrifice is powerfully portrayed in "Spirited Amy". Like Tom, Chihiro has to move, but is forced to work for survival in an unknown world controlled by a witch - "Spirit World". Chihiro's initially spoiled behaviour is depicted at the beginning of the film when she uses a frustrated and stubborn tone in the rhetorical question "Why do we have to move?" However, while she is in the Spirit World, like Tom, her attitudes need to be sacrificed as the obstacle of being an outsider puts her in horror. This idea is clearly portrayed in a spectacularly surreal mise-en-scene where a larger scale of the witch occupying the most space suggests an idea of invading Chihiro's personal space, portraying Chihiro's vulnerability. Although Miyazaki's great imagination knows the modelling of the film, through his persuasive plot stature, Chihiro's attitude from childish to obedient in the process of venturing on a new path is powerfully expressed.

Conversely, through being through hardships in new experiences, individuals learn how to take opportunities to enhance their perspectives due to developed maturity. Even though Tom is guarded at the beginning, after he finds his "old self" while with Chrissy, he stands to become more thoughtful in his dialogue "It's being away from pain... no guts...no debt," the repetition of "no" and negative

emotive terms extend the metaphorical “black tunnel” by reinforcing the motif of burden. Nonetheless, through the enlightening plot structure at the end, where imagery is used to represent Tom’s washing away of past, the dialogue allows us to infer that Tom is starting to think philosophically in life and has decided to walk out from miseries. Therefore, from seeing Tom’s change, Burke allows us to understand that individual’s choice compensate the sacrifice they made when transitioning into the world.

The notion that developed maturity enhance individual’s perspective and provides opportunity is also explored in “Spirited Away”, through Miyazaki’s use of juxtaposition. The composer juxtaposes the scene when a long shot captures Chihiro’s childish gesture – clinging tight onto an angry facial expression to her mother’s arm, with the scene when she demands her friends to “behave” themselves in a solemn tone while guarding these to sacrifice full of incredible obstacles portrayed through dark lighting and silence. This juxtaposition demonstrates Chihiro’s changes from immaturity to independent. Through the enlightening plot structure at the end where Chihiro is set free, Miyazaki allows the audience to understand that individual’s opportunity are portrayed through learning from new experiences.

Even though when moving into the new world, individual’s face obstacles that challenge their initial attitudes through learning from new experiences, they are able to enhance their perspectives and develop maturity. The composers’ powerful features successfully portrays the characters responsive emotions, hence the audience see the concept that “venturing into different paths requires negotiation between sacrifice and opportunity”.