

ENGLISH STANDARD-INTO THE WORLD

The Story of Tom Brennan Essay

As the story begins 21 weeks after the accident Tom is in a state of shock and grief. He is constantly numb with despair. He restrains all his pain silently inside and is reluctant to continue his life shown through the statement "Bad thoughts... suffocated any hope I had of getting my life back." The uses of flashbacks show his memories of Daniels previously erratic behaviour, "He just got away with it". He constantly recalls the accident, "I was sucked deeper into that long black tunnel". When Tom received an email from Matt, he deletes it, as he cannot express the overpowering emotions he kept inside. Tom finds situations involving Fin uncomfortable, "I just knew being here with Fin hurt, and probably always would". He cannot stand the pressure or the memories, "We thought we'd escaped sudden death. But we were wrong; we'd walked right into it." These memories, shown as a recounted, non-linear narrative, serve as a constant reminder of the accident. In Tom's next stage of transition he is tentative and recovering. This is shown by his creation of the scrapbook for Daniel, "If he had to face the future, so did I". When Tom visits Daniel in prison alone he is now able to move on with his life. In Toms last stages of transition we see that he is now recovering and living positively once again. He is enthusiastic about football and begins to exercise with Brendan, gaining confidence in himself he never had, "I noticed by arms weren't looking bad". As Tom begins to finalise his trip to Nepal with Brendan we see he has moved on from feelings of depression, "I felt like doing the bolt back to the cave". He thinks of Nepal as a challenge, which he aims to conquer, "Bring it on." Chrissy becomes Tom's infatuation and this is a positive distraction "no ties, no debt, no guilt, no bad thoughts." Tom begins to show his trust and love for her, "Today became the day I kissed Chrissy Tulake." She helps to discover the old Tom that had been lost for so long, "...that was the morning Tom Brennan came back, forever."

Kylie, like Tom, has had her life uprooted by the accident and has become an angry, resentful teenager. She is emotionally fragile and shows a great deal of resentment as she is "well pissed off" with her family and new life in Coghill, "I hate all of you". She is plagued by guilt that what has happened to Fin is her fault. Helping Fin adapt to coming home from rehab was "Her way of making it up to Fin". However, Kylie begins to see kindness in her grandmother and her relationship with Tom begins her recovery.

The Bucket List, like The story of Tom Brennan, shows the hardships experienced by individuals that they must overcome in order to progress in life. Edward Cole and Carter Chambers are both experiencing the hardships of cancer. Carter is extremely flat and resigned to death. He is detached from his family and leads a very dull life. However, Edward is rude, selfish and abrupt as shown in his many statements such as "kiss my ass..." Edward is very demanding and insensitive. The bucket list was created by Carter as a "young mans wishes". This brought on many new experiences that lead them to go skydiving, climb mountains and visit many countries. Carter experiences a consolidation of his values and realises the importance of his wife and children. When they return from their journeys their lives have been changed forever. Carter is reunited with his family and living happily once again. Edward has come to the realisation that business and money is not everything and through Carter the importance of family. He visits his daughter to try to develop a real relationship. During Carters funeral service Edward displays the depths of his emotions towards Carter. Both of the men are very thankful to each other and have brought some joy into each other's lives.

The feature article '2 of us' consists of two interviews by Nigel Bowen. Ken Marslew's son Michael was murdered in 1994 during an armed robbery organised by Karl Kramer. Ken is the founder of the anti-violence organisation 'Enough is Enough' and is now helping Karl with his recovery. Karl Kramer has experienced several stages of transition, he has moved away from his criminal nature and has learnt to accept the consequences by allowing Michael Marslew's family to meet him if they wish so they are able to "process their anger and grief". This allowed him to move forward. Thanks to Ken he is now able to understand the seriousness of what he has done and the pain he has

caused. Karl has changed significantly shown through “Every time I look at Ken, I’ll be reminded and I plan on having a lot to do with him”. Ken has also experienced several stages of transition. In the beginning, Ken was filled with hatred. However, he moved away from these feelings and formed the anti-violence organisation ‘Enough is Enough’. Ken moved on from aggressive feelings, “I was prepared to take someone’s life”, and began focusing on others. Ken has now begun to obtain some “internal peace” and has chosen to let go of the hate he has, “for the reason it hurts me more than anyone else”. Ken has become an “honest” and unselfish person and does all he can to help Karl, and others, begin a new life of success.