

## **'OLD/NEW WORLD ILLUSTRATES A LINK BETWEEN A CHALLENGING PAST AND A PERSON'S IDENTITY'. DISCUSS.**

The marvellous collection of 'Old/New World' is presented lyrically and symbolically by the famous Australian poet Peter Skrzynecki. The collection aims to underpin how the sufferings and hardships of people's past experiences are related to their character. Skrzynecki projects light on the entwinement of a difficult past with one's identity to exhibit struggle's involvement in shaping one's life. He begins by encountering a loss of identity by gloomily reflecting upon an unpleasant migration. Furthermore, Skrzynecki reminiscently glances back to his bitter old life to explore his perished identity. However, Skrzynecki also nostalgically reveals the positive impacts on a person's character that are subsequent to their past happenings. Overall, Skrzynecki himself underwent a severe past, utilizes the elements of identity and perspective to present a gist of one's true sufferings.

Throughout the collection, Skrzynecki encounters a loss of identity by gloomily reflecting upon the life-changing events of his past. In 'Immigrants at central station', Skrzynecki employs a melancholy tone to highlight an unpleasant migration. The imagery of unhappy migrants displayed in "families [standing]/ with blankets and packed cases", waiting for the expedition they have to forcefully undertake sadly exposes the struggles of immigration. Skrzynecki attempts to convey that such circumstances lead to a person's identity being diminished, leaving him vulnerable "like cattle bought for slaughter". Additionally, the individuality of every immigrant is pushed below the surface by the repeated use of "us", instead of "I" throughout the poem. Likewise, in 'Migrant Hostel', Skrzynecki unveils the post-war emotions and lives of immigrants through a dismal tone. The poem brings to light the hardships of war, interpreted by the symbol of restriction, as in the "barrier at the main gate" that depressingly sealed off not only "the highway", but also their choice to live with freedom. In addition, Skrzynecki's utilization of internal rhyme in "all the comings and goings" develops a rhythm of chaos, that went on "for over two years". These sufferings illustrate how their lives and identities "were dying" because of this harsh migration. Overall, the readers are left in a place to reflect upon the difficulties felt by a person, that unwittingly take away his or her character.

Furthermore, Skrzynecki reminiscently explores his perished identity by glancing back to his bitter old life. In 'Migrant Centre Site', the flashback of the persona presents to the readers the life-changing concentration camp where he once used to live. Skrzynecki injects alliteration in "row upon row of converted Air Force huts", to paint a picture of the obnoxious residence, where "three thousand refugees" had come to live, after having to destroy all their previous ideas and flee their beloved country. Moreover, the voice created feels like he's visiting "an old cemetery", which symbolizes a place where lives come to an end. He feels this because his own identity associated with those challenging years doesn't exist anymore. Conversely, the lively poem, 'Summer in the Country' purveys a pleasant past through the use of a vivid tone. The actions of "brushing away flies", and drinking "cold lemonade", are reflective of quite an enjoyable summer back in Europe. Additionally, Skrzynecki plants a sudden tonal shift to express that "[he] didn't miss Europe" at all, suggesting an end to his previous lifestyle, and how his personality and himself has changed after all these years. Overall, Skrzynecki tries to demonstrate his identity that perished away several years ago.

However, Skrzynecki nostalgically reveals the positive impacts on a person's character that are subsequent to their past happenings. In 'Time's Revenge', Skrzynecki personifies time throughout the poem to conceptualize change in a person. The "hot summer days" elicit a sense of a joyful childhood, alongside which the long sentences and references to the "wild peaches blossom[ing]" are evident of passage of time, that have turned the little kid into a mature and entirely changed person.

Moreover, the repetition of the word “growing up” also deeply emphasizes the development of wisdom in the persona’s nature, elaborating how he used to wish “tomorrow would arrive quickly”, and now “he smiles” longingly. Alternatively, in ‘Mother and Son’, Skrzynecki materializes war-torn circumstances to enable readers to capture the consequences of war. The setting of a “Displaced Persons’ camp” illuminates the aftermath of a destructive war back in the persona’s past, one that stands capable of changing a person in and out. Proving his idea, Skrzynecki presents an eighteen months old infant’s mother standing with her feet “planted firmly on the ground”, to showcase the symbol of courage and motherhood. He does this to depict a woman that has grown protective, strong, and unbendable subsequent to what the war has brought to her. Overall, Skrzynecki conveys the changes occurring in one’s personality by linking back to their history.

Finally, it becomes clear that Skrzynecki reflectively encapsulates the connection of identity with one’s difficult past to demonstrate the role of struggle. In a nutshell, Skrzynecki’s collection concludes an unpleasant migration standing cause for a loss of identity. Furthermore, Skrzynecki also explores a non-existent personality from his historical memories. However, he states the positives developed within a person by contrasting to his idea of identities dying due to struggles. Ultimately, Peter Skrzynecki puts the spotlight on the battles of life faced by every individual and fabricates the true essence of what sort of a person they really create.

## INTRODUCTION

Skrzynecki’s collection of ‘Old/New World’ aims to illuminate normal everyday happenings in a rejoicing manner throughout the collection. Skrzynecki delightfully endorses the joyful moments of daily life to display beauty, while also putting forth the extraordinary occurrences that end up changing one’s life completely. Throughout his poetry, Skrzynecki begins by projecting the freedom in the birds’ lives everywhere around us. Additionally, he also adoringly glorifies the true beauty of nature and gardening. However, learns from the extreme hardships of a life-changing immigration. Overall, Skrzynecki celebrates the ways in which people live their routine life, also understanding the situations of those who undergo change unwillingly.