### Survival Instincts

Survival instincts are innate characteristics featured in living things and allows them to fight or conquer issues along the way. The innate aspect of competition among each other and internally pushes people and animals to forge ahead in life. The desire to overcome a hurdle marks an iconic moment in people’s lives. Furthermore, the survival aspect breeds new and resilient offspring that take over the mantle, becoming part of a continuous cycle of strong species. In Crawdads Sing and The Color of Water, the protagonists go through hardships in life to become victorious in the end. Challenges faced along the way shape their perspectives on life and push them to become better in life. The characters encompass the human instinct of survival in the real world, where one focuses on building themselves to become an ideal individual in the society. Exploring the survival instincts of the protagonists in Where the Crawdads Sing and The Color of Water shares key aspects that relate to the real world.

In Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens introduces Catherine Danielle Clark or Kya, as a six-year-old girl born in an abusive family (Brown and Garcia). Her mother makes the decision to leave her abusive husband and Kya alongside her brother follow suite. From a young age, Kya tries her level best to learn different skills to assist her mother and take care of her other siblings (Brown and Garcia). She takes issues and hardships with a pinch of salt and try to see the silver lining in every situation. Kya takes the steps to reunite with her father by approaching their conversations in a different perspective, where she understands his situation. Her story develops from one tough situation to another but Kya’s innate survival instinct play out through her life with the desire to become better (Brown and Garcia). She looks at her the relationship between her mother and father and desires a different life. Owen’s development of Kya in the book demonstrate survival instincts in human beings.

In The Color of Water, James McBride provides his readers with an autobiography of his life and a tribute to his mother, Ruth McBride (Ref-u409199). His mother came to America at a tender age and as Polish Jewish immigrants, they had a time settling in their new environment. Culture shock affected the family as they had a tough time adjusting to the environment. Ruth underwent sexual abuse under the hands of her father, Tateh, who threatened her if she told anyone about the encounter (Ref-u409199). Furthermore, hardships in life and chaotic family setting, Ruth forged ahead in life to make a better lifestyle for herself. She married Andrew Dennis McBride, who was a black man living in North Carolina, and devoted herself to serving her husband. However, her chaotic life as a child followed her in the marriage as she constantly faced abuse from McBride and with nowhere to turn to, she focuses on building herself and provide a better future for her children.

The two books illustrate innate survival instincts present in human beings and how different situations play a part in its development. Ruth and Kya have similar lives as they come from abusive households, had to learn how to cope with life at a tender age and are survivors of abusive marriages. The two women have strong survival characteristics, whereby the look at life from a different perspective. They choose to see a silver lining in their hardships and focus more on building a better understanding of their situations. In the case of Kya, she looks towards the positive aspect of each challenging step such as creating a relationship with his abusive father despite their tough upbringing. Moreover, she takes it upon herself to learn how to deal with challenges in life instead of sinking herself in depression or view it as an impossible task. These survival instincts play key roles in the lives of Ruth and Kya and play a key part in their children’s characteristics.

The survival theme is visible in The Great Gatsby, whereby Gatsby embodies himself as a successful businessman, who came from a poor background. However, it is slightly different from the two books as its protagonist has a different kind of life. Gatsby’s lavish lifestyle portrays the American dream envied by most people, but few can attain it (Fitzgerald 5). Furthermore, it explores Gatsby’s desires to become an influential individual in the society. Ideally, The Great Gatsby builds on the economic changes experienced in the 1920s after the first World War, where young men tried to make a living in the big cities. Most of them did not came from poor households and got to learn survival tactics that became a huge part in their future and brought about the perspective of new money. Ideally, the phrase, new money, encompassed the young lavish individuals, such as Gatsby, who attained their social class from hard work in their business. Their desire to make it in the big city portrays their survival instincts, where they choose to remain competitive in their business dealings.

The lives of Ruth McBride and Catherine Danielle Clark illustrate survival instincts present in human beings and the desire to make a change in one’s lives. Hardships and tough family backgrounds take center stage in their lives but their innate desire to make a better life for themselves allows them to see a silver lining in their lifestyle. Gatsby embodies the story of a young boy who made a name for himself in the big cities through hard work. Ideally, exploring the survival instincts of the protagonists in Where the Crawdads Sing and The Color of Water shares key aspects that relate to the real world.