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English period 4

Humans

I'm reading *A Long Way Gone* by Ishmael Beah this story is about a young boy who lives in Sierra Leone, Africa. We have also read the short story Games of Twilight by Anita Desai, and this is a story about a group of kids playing a game of hide-and-seek. I think that both the authors of these stories use the concept of dehumanization to express an aspect of childhood. So far in *A Long Way Gone* Ishmael Has been forced to flee his home and find somewhere safe from the rebels. At first, he travels with a group of friends including his brother but they end up getting separated and he joins a new group and they have been wandering from town to town “Our innocence had been replaced by fear and we had become monsters. There was nothing we could do about it. Sometimes we ran after people shouting that we were not what they thought”(Pg. 55)

I think that this passage shows that the author is trying to show the reader that all the villagers were thinking of these kids as monsters and they started to act that way because people had been telling them that so long. I also think that the author is also using this passage to make this scene more realistic and bring the reader in the story. In the short story Games Of Twilight, the main character Rague (“It”) has just started chasing Ravi and Ravi is watching as Rague is about to catch another kid playing the game “You're dead, he said with satisfaction, licking the beads of perspiration off his upper lip, and then stalked off in search of worthier prey.”(Pg. 2) I think that this passage is portraying the kids as animals because they are describing this game as a hunt and The author uses a lot of descriptive languages to make the game more intense. The author also allows the reader to visualize the story and it makes it more interesting.

This concept of childhood also relates to a lot of the stories sold by Patricia McCormick. The author of this book also dehumanized the main character to give the reader a better picture and understanding of the passage. In the book, a young girl is talking about the difference between her and if her parents had a son. She overhears what her father is saying about her.“But a girl is like a goat. Good as long as she gives you milk and butter. But not worth crying over when it’s time to make a stew.”(Pg. 8) This passage is showing how the author is comparing her to a goat and saying how this makes her less than others. I think that this quote also helps the reader understand how her father felt about her. The wording allows a very clear understanding of how she felt and using a metaphor that dehumanized her brought the seen life.

All of these quotes express childhood in a unique way that allows them to be meaningful and stand out. I think this passage can also really relate to the way our society through the world is describing people. In today's age, the media is a really big topic, and I feel that all around us on the news there are a lot of statistics. The way that tragedies and news are presented about child poverty and the number of children suffering make it feel like numbers. These numbers can make people not consider the individual and can leave less room for empathy. One of the main ways humans are special is their ability to empathize and when these children are dehumanized they aren't able to empathize and with this understanding help them. Overall Dehumanization is a very effective concept to connect childhood and can show a new aspect of how children think and feel.



I think this represents how if you don't look at others faces you won't be able to understand them