

http://cislit.weebly.com/uploads/2/6/1/1/26116552/the_truth_about_stories_by_thomas_king.pdf

What do you see as King's purpose to this last section of the story? Is it effective in your opinion? Give support for your answer based on his arguments.

King's indictment of the Christian creation story in his lecture provokes readers to question Judeo-Christian dogma in favour of a more egalitarian value system. He argues that Christian dogma has conditioned us to believe that we are "God's chosen people..., Masters of the Universe" (28) and that this arrogance blinds us to the destructive methods in which we fulfill our insatiable greed. He asserts that the one-dimensional creation stories that characterize Judeo-Christian doctrine have forced an insular perspective onto us, where we subscribe to false dichotomies, making us "suspicious of complexities, distrustful of contradictions, [and] fearful of enigmas" (25). By juxtaposing Native and Christian stories, King inspires readers to imagine "a world marked [not] by competition [but rather a] world determined by co-operation" (25). He examines the stories celebrated by Western cultures and asks why "we relish stories that lionize individuals who start at the bottom and fight their way to the top, rather than stories that frame these forms of competition as varying degrees of insanity" (26). He asserts that this thread of individualism, in favour of a story about social cohesion, is not reflective of the world we ought to live in. His final remarks are a call-to-arms to engage with unique perspectives and ultimately broaden his readers' imaginations about the kind of world we could live in.

King is conscious of how his polemic can be perceived and as a result, he's straightforward about statements that seem disingenuous. By admitting that he speaks in "platitudes[s], platitudes[s]" (27), he makes his lecture amenable to the most ardent of believers because they appreciate his honesty and humility. His humility allows him to focus on "show[ing] them [his] imagination" (26) rather than "show[ing] them [his] mind" (26). By avoiding a debate with his readers, King inspires them to contemplate the meaning of his stories - now that they have heard them, his readers must make a conscious decision. Just like the witch's story, his story is "loose in the world" (10). His readers, regardless of whether

they agree with his statements, must contend with his ideas; even forgetting it is to live in denial. This style of persuasive story-telling is a prime example of a provocative and engaging lecture, promoting the kind of discourse that King wanted.

readers realize the dangers and issues of the Christian creation story.

King discusses the shortcomings and dangers of the Christian creation story not through a

By discussing the shortcomings of the Christian creation story to adapt to a diverse world while reminding us that his purpose isn't to preach, he retains his audience, regardless of their faith in Christian stories. [Better conclusion]

Tell a story, she told me. Don't preach. Don't try to sound profound. It's unbecoming, and you do it poorly. Don't show them your mind. Show them your imagination

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He describes our attitude towards our insatiable greed and the way we fulfill our desires is directly influenced by our stories.

The way the Christian story has explained

King shows that the way the Christian story is framed

inform us of how we should attain what we need and want. The Christian story has blinded us to our arrogance

He avoids presenting his arguments directly and does not state that entrenched Western traits like conceit and insatiable greed are consequences of Christian creation stories. Instead, he encourages readers to come to these conclusions by themselves through an open-ended thought experiment. With questions that convey the cooperative perspective of the Native creation story, "What kind of a world might we have created with [a more cooperative] story?", readers are compelled to recognize the differences between Western and native philosophies. His questions help readers see how Christian stories are so deeply entrenched in Western society and have inspired a society driven by insatiable greed, egotism, and division.

- 1) He's funny
- 2) He recognizes his audience and is candid with them - he recognizes that he shouldn't

Thesis:

In the last section of his lecture, King emphasizes that stories have enormous influence over Western ethos. He effectively provokes the reader to question the stories that form the basis for Western philosophy and consider stories that could enrich our lives and society.

- His purpose is to inspire us to change our thinking from one that is inspired, in large part, by a dangerous, single Christian story.

Examples:

- **King** shows that Christian stories have led to a society driven by insatiable greed, egotism, and division.
- The arrogance inspired by Christian stories has blinded us to creating more civil societies
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- King shows that these stories have classified the world into false dichotomies
- King engages in intellectual discussion with the reader by presenting his ideas as open-ended questions.

and Christian creation stories, "What kind of a world might we have created with [a sympathetic] story?".

Finally, he reminds us that, like the witch's scary story, the Native creation story and the lessons we revealed to ourselves cannot be called back. We owe it to ourselves and our society

engage the reader in intellectual discussion. The reader is drawn in with questions, “What if the animals had decided on their names?”, but must think of an answer themselves. These questions allow King to present his ideas that Christian creation stories have inspired conceit and insatiable greed as the natural response to his questions.

He’s saying that our Western society is formed we are right now is a sum of indoctrinated Christian values like adultery, polygamy,

He wants us to reflect on our values and consider how much of them are inspired by Christian values and indoctrination

Western philosophies are consequences of the Church’s

Examples:

- His ending isn’t directly a criticism of our Christian society; he expressly claims that “Western religion and Western privilege has [not] fostered stories that encourage egotism and self-interest”. Instead, his main goal here is to just make you realize the power stories have over ourselves and our society and wonder about the perspective you would have with a different story.
- Tries to get you to act based on how he has told his story (reference the witch’s issue of a story being out there)

Stylistic elements to blend with the examples:

- His use of rhetorical questions allows King to sidestep challenging a reader’s personal beliefs and engage in an intellectual discussion. The reader is drawn in by questions like [insert question here] but is not answered. In this way, King communicates his ideas to readers as the natural conclusion readers individually develop in response to his questions.

“Begg us to change our perspective of the world and Make our perspective with this story”

“He transitions from a very solemn tone about the Christian origin story to a sarcastic, humorous tone to show that his argument was idealistic. By showing that both ideas are flawed, he presented an unbiased, plain view of origin stories.”

“Emphasize the power of stories by looking at their effects on society”

King’s other messages are like:

Stories have the power to shape us, our views, and

The dichotomy between his parents. His mother was the person he wanted to emulate and his father was the person he didn’t want to become

In the “so am i” paragraph, he presents the idea of tearing down the Christian society because it is all bad but says that that isn’t the solution. He then details specific examples of how Christian society has failed and explores Native stories and their potential effects on society as a thought experiment.

King ultimately is just trying to get you to think. His ending isn’t directly a criticism of our Christian society; he expressly claims that “Western religion and Western privilege has [not] fostered stories that encourage egotism and self-interest”. Instead, his main goal here is to just make you realize the power stories have over ourselves and our society and wonder about the perspective you would have with a different story.

In this way, he explores the power of stories and their capacity to affect society.

Ask about how the previous assignment question was open-ended but takes marks off for some reason and is not specific about what he wants