“Sunday in the Park” S.E.E. Paragraph

Though “Sunday in the Park” had many themes, it displayed “learn from your past” as the strongest and most obvious. In the story, Morton and the inhospitable man get into an argument about the man’s son throwing sand. The theme of learning from your past comes into play when the Morton states that, “[he] must ask you a question…” (Bel Kaufman 22), and the man replies, “Oh, yeah? You and who else?” The challenge of a physical confrontation doesn’t bode well for Morton, as he is substantially more trim and light than the other man. After they leave, the application of learning from your past comes in, however, as Morton says, “If you can’t discipline this child, I will.” (Bel Kaufman 22) Like the last situation, a much larger man is challenging a comparatively helpless opponent, only this time; the roles have been swapped for Morton. The wife demonstrates her ability to learn from the experience in the park, and Morton’s apparently ability to-not, by stepping in and saying, “Indeed? You and who else?” (Bel Kaufman 23) As a result of the child’s helplessness, it is easy to draw the similarity between the two situations. The wife took from the situation the comfort of avoiding a fight, and wanted to not follow that up with a fight with her own to family members. Consequently, she stepped in and challenged Morton, so he wouldn’t act against the child. Despite the imaginably scary experience for Morton from before, the ability to physically challenge someone smaller made it easy enough for him to lose his civility and threaten a toddler.

Chapter 2 of *Bless Me Ultima* – Interpretive Question

The concerns and thoughts of Antonio during Chapter 2 of *Bless Me Ultima* represent key aspects of his character. Antonio is a thoughtful, sympathetic, and compassionate character, as demonstrated when Lupito is fatally shot. The first thoughts he has are not about his own secrecy being maintained, but were instead, “Did God listen? Would he hear? Had he seen my father on the bridge? And where was Lupito’s soul winging to, or was it washing down the river to the fertile valley of my uncles’ farms?” (Rudolfo Anaya 23) Though this isn’t the only occurrence of this type in the chapter, or even the entire novel, it demonstrates many of Antonio’s strongest and most defining attributes in one page. From this quote, we can draw that Antonio is thoughtful, pondering his religion, and keeping his mind open to the more spiritual side of his culture, represented by Ultima. Next, it shows compassion and sympathy with Lupito’s condition, as the “listening” aspect he wonders of God was his prayer to save him. Finally, he wonders what God thinks if he saw his father on the bridge, breaching one of the Ten Commandments. Antonio’s traits are clearly visible in this passage, as he displays the thoughtfulness of someone much older, and exercises compassion and sympathy for people in and outside of his family, something very advanced for a child as young as Antonio, and a defining aspect of the protagonist of this novel.

Works Cited

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