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**Journals 2**

**Journal 2**

I thought that this movie was confusing. Even when the Indians were portrayed as badass warriors, they still acted like we were portraying them as fat bloodthirsty savages. Weren’t white people characterized as well? They seemed so upset that people were characterizing them in awesome way but then they are upset when white people are characterized in a bad ass way. I understand that they don’t want every Indian to be seen that way but that is common with most races, even white people. Maybe it is because I live in a wonder bread town, but I really don’t understand racism. I think the craziest thing about this film is how much I still don’t understand about their opinions. I completely understand not wanting to be viewed as savages, but some of the other things I don’t get.

A new perspective that I have gained is how little I am affected by racism. This was prominent in two ways. The first way would be how ignorant I am about racism. There are so many little things in our culture that are racist. I didn’t even notice most of the things that the movie pointed out. I can recognize that being portrayed as a savage is racist, but never even noticed how much all Native Americans are portrayed in the same way. Not being allowed the freedom to have many different types of your culture didn’t even cross my mind. The second way I realized how little I am affected by racism is by how quietly privileged I am. Growing up in such an accepting yet white town has really protected me for racism. For the longest time I was convince that it didn’t exist anymore except for weird places in the south. I never realized how many small privileges white people get. I don’t have to deal with having all members of my race be characterized as pretty much one person. Its small things like that that make me realize that racism still exist. Although it may seem small these acts of racism are separating cultures and slowly isolating them.

**Journal 4**

I think the over all theme of the stories is how white culture is infringing on Native American culture, and the struggles of walking between both worlds. In the chapter Indian education the quote, “And I said, yes I am, I am Indian, Indian I am,” shows a boy taking pride in being an Indian. Throughout each of the chapters though, the book shows how the Native Americans have accepted white culture, like in A Drug Called Tradition when one of the boys says, “ Indians are the best cowboys.” With more of the white culture intruding into their lives, it takes away the value of their culture and what they stand for. This is show in the chapter Crazy Horse Dreams, in the quote, “ You’re nothing important, another goddamned Indian like me.” Having with culture slowly breaks down the importance of the Native American ways, and it has a tolling effect on the people.

**Journal 5**

In class we compared Sherman Alexis’s book *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* and the essays of *First Persons, First Peoples*? Each of the stories, even though they were different, had the same underlying themes. One of the biggest underlining themes that are present in all of the articles is tension between the whites and the Native Americans. Tension between whites and Native Americans is endemic throughout all of the stories, and I believe that the main cause of that tension is stereotypes.

In all the stories the authors all either hint at or blatantly expose the stereotypes in their lives. One of the most common stereotype that is seen between the to cultures is Native Americans drinking too much. In the story *Why Didn’t You Teach Me?* By Robert Bennett, It talks about how his coach expected him to be an alcoholic because of his race, “Don’t let Bennett hang out in the fraternity basement, because his people have a big problem with alcoholism. I want you to watch out for him.”(147) The stereotype that Native Americans drink silently drives a wedge between the two cultures. It causes tension to the point where neither group feels like partaking in drinking with one and other. Whites may feel like they have to have this super hero mentality to take care of Native Americans, and Native Americans may feel like they have to be cautious of every move they make. Thanks to the stereotypes of drinking, neither group can enjoy it without feeling a certain pressure put upon them, and it divides the cultures even more.

Another common cause of tension between white people and Native American is the idea that Native Americans cause trouble. Sherman Alexei shows this in his book *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* when the character enters a gas station with a white clerk. “’Can I help you?’ the 7-11 clerk asked me loudly, searching for some response that would reassure him that I wasn’t an armed robber. He knew this dark skin and long, black hair of mine was dangerous.”(183) White people have an idea that if someone is Native American then that automatically makes them a suspect for criminal behavior. White people should not go into situations expecting the worst out of Native Americans, because it stops the cultures from bonding before anything even begins. As also stated in the same chapter, the character says, “When one person starts to look at another like a criminal, then the love is over.”(182) Having the tension that one said thinks of the other as a criminal is detrimental to both parties, and the cultures will not be able to except each other.

The tensions present between the Whites and the Native Americans in these stories are proof that the two cultures are still at a silent war against each other. The stories show us that there is still a great deal of tension between the two groups. Derogatory stereotypes are still present in both communities and they are driving a wedge between the cultures. Reading this showed me that there is still a lot of tension that needs to be removed from each culture. Each group cannot have stereotypes against the other and still expect for people to be able to connect to each other. As long as there is still tension the two cultures will remain separated.