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Leading through Negotiation: Harnessing the Power of Gender Stereotypes



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The Power of One Synopsis

This Novel follows Peekay, an English-speaking South African boy, in a three part series exploring the adventures of his life.

Theme

In The Power of One, the overarching theme is individuality. Throughout the novel, Peekay let the hardships of his child define him as the hero of his own story.

Cultural Background

Peekay is a white, English, South-African growing up in the apartheid era.

Characterization

- · Indirect Characterization
 - "He had given me the power of one-one idea, one heart, one mind, one plan, one determination. Hoppie had sensed my need to grow, my need to be assured that the world around me had not been specially arranged to bring about my undoing. He gave me a defense system, and with it he gave me hope." (page 103)

- · Direct Characterization
 - "I was the youngest child in the school by two years, and I spoke only English, the infected tongue that had spread like a plague into the sacred land and contaminated the pure, sweet waters of Afrikanerdom." (page 3)

Major Conflict

One of the major conflicts in The Power of One was the Judge's torture of a young Peekay. This part of Peekay's childhood gave him a different outlook on life, seeing his own life as worthless because he was English. Peekay resolved this conflict in his life when he came face to face with the Judge as a man in the mines. The two boxed, resulting in Peekay winning and carving PK into the man's swastika tattoos. After doing this, he felt like he had overcome the main struggle in his life that was holding him down.

Critique of The Power of One

In my opinion, The Power of One was, at times, a hard to follow novel. The vast amount of inappropriate words for imagery made me want to close the book and stop. Also, this novel has many parts that were confusing, leaving me lost and struggling to follow the overall plot.

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