Whale rider essay example

Thesis statement- The movie Whale Rider teaches us about many aspects of 1st nations peoples.

The movie Whale Rider teaches us about many aspects of 1st nations peoples. Whale Rider is a movie about a Moari girl named Paikea who was born, and broke the traditions of her people by becoming a leader. In the movie we are taught about the importance of culture to 1st nations peoples. We are also taught about the significance of myth and stories to the lives of 1st nations peoples. In addition, we are shown the serious impacts losing your culture can have on 1st nations peoples. Obviously this movie provides the audience with many lessons about 1st nations peoples.

 One of the first lessons “Whale Rider” teaches us about is the importance of culture to 1st nations peoples. One way that culture is shown to be important in the movie is through how it can builds self esteem. For example, when the boys in the movie are learning about using the fighting stick or “Taiaha” they become proud of their accomplishments. Since learning about their culture provides them with a sense of belonging and pride, it shows how culture is important in building one’s sense of self-worth. A second way Whale Rider shows its audience the significance of culture, is through how it creates community unity. For instance, when the people come together to save the whales, and then celebrate their success, it develops a sense of group pride in their accomplishment. Since saving the whales taught them to remember how important their traditions were to the whole community it demonstrates the important cultural role in providing community strength. As one can see the movie provides valuable lessons about how culture is important to 1st nations peoples.

The second aspect of First Nations culture that Whale rider teaches us is about is how important myth and stories are to 1st nations peoples. One way this is done is by having characters like Paikea’s grandfather tell her stories to teach her lessons about life. For example, he teaches Paikea about the importance of working together by sharing the story of the rope, and showing her how everything is stronger when it is interconnected. Since this story is used to teach Paikea about an important value of her culture, working together, it demonstrates the importance of stories. A second way this is shown is through stories about people’s perserverance, such as in the story of Paikea, the whale rider . For example, in the story, he survives and builds his culture in a new land, despite having lost everything. Therefore we see that stories such as these teach that you need to keep your culture strong to survive, which is important to aboriginal peoples. As one can see through these examples, the movie teaches us many things about why myths and stories are important to native cultures.

A third lesson Whale rider teaches us about is that losing your culture can have serious impacts on people. One way they show this iin the movie is through showing how some people can lose their sense of purpose. For example, Paikea’s grandfather gives up hope when he believes he has failed to find a new leader for their people. Since his faith in tradition is what kept him strong, when he believes he has caused the loss of that tradition it has a terrible affect on him, effectively illustrating the tremendous impact losing your culture can have on people. A second way we are shown this in the movie is through how people can lose their self-esteem as a result of losing touch with their roots. An illustration of this would be Paikea’s uncle, who used to be a champion at traditional stick fighting, and now is lazy and lackadaisical about the traditions of his people. Since he lost his connection to his culture, he also loses the pride this built in him, which demonstrates how serious culture loss can be. It is obvious, that the movie teaches us about the serious effects that losing touch with their culture can have on 1st nations peoples.

In conclusion, it is very clear that watching the movie Whale Rider teaches us many facets of 1st nations peoples. It shows us how important culture is to 1st nations peoples. It demonstrates how myth and stories form an integral part of their traditions. It also shows us the serious impacts that losing culture can have on 1st nations peoples. After watching this movie, a person becomes more aware about the various important aspects of 1st nations peoples lives and how important preserving one’s culture is to maintaining a people’s sense of self worth. The importance of staying in touch with who you is definitely something that everyone needs to keep in mind.