

23-10-02

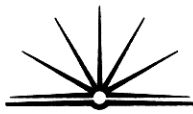
Dear organizers of "something to say",

After the study of Law written by Scott Monk I firmly believe that it would be of great assistance in helping your program at high schools about the issues of institutions & personal experiences.

I would like to start off by saying that the term "institution" is something that cannot be defined simplicially or blurring flawingly. It is a term that many do not see as being able to operate beyond the basic boundaries of a physical domain.

Law written by Scott Monk deals deals primarily with the criminal justice system.

Monk focuses on that while being in an institution may encourage individuals to change by enforcing the rules it is the individual who ultimately holds the power to change. I believe that sometimes we forget this concept & this would be useful for your program as it would show our young society what many people forget. Three crucial issues which stem from this topic are enforcement, protest & compliance, these



are all essential things we as a society are subject too no matter what institution in life we find ourselves in.

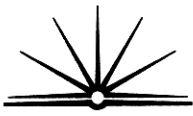
The character of Brett symbolises the reaching highly wrought heroics that can be demonstrated by those who are confronted or challenged by the structures of authority & control. Brett's negativity towards authority is expressed in his antagonism towards the police. His refusal with even minor demands such as leaving the paddy van represent the long road ahead. Mark has used Brett to represent the enormity of the challenge it is to reconstruct ones life purposefully & to be able to negotiate the fine territory between independence & conformity, a challenge that is only begging to be met at the conclusion of the text.

Mark uses his protagonist & other characters to strategically explore the effect of individuals when exposed to institutional policies. Characters such as Josh, Frog, Tyson & Rebecca provide



additional insights in ~~total~~ how individuals react to the pressures of institutionalisation. The characters are all challenged on different levels & react differently to the process of conformity. The way Mark uses his characters to have shown that being able to conform in an institution is much about overcoming personal barricades. If we are not able to face our own problems ^{then} ~~that~~ being able to conform in an establishment such as the one in this novel will be extremely more difficult.

The film girl interrupted can be related to & has many issues & events that Mark deals within his novel Leah. The main character Susan Keyser is put in a psychiatric institution for her borderline personality disorder. While she is here she is impacted by many people such as Lisa - the self-destructive ~~Sycopath~~ but somehow charming & persuasive Sycopath who is always escaping. She Susana is able to make Lisa realize that she holds the key to



her life like Sam too eventually makes world
realize. In the beginning of her institutionalization
Susana rebels against the conforming
establishment. Her protest & rebellion was the
result of her inability to acknowledge what
she feels & what she wants. Susana turns to
Valerie & the rest of the medical staff at
Claymore like Sao Paulo turns to Sam &
they both begin cooperating with the treatment
given - In a sense both characters have
~~worked~~ worked within the system as opposed
to outside. Mark & this film have shown
how even the prescribed measures by authority
may not always work at first because the
individual is still in need of finding their
true self.

~~up to 60,000~~

An article from "Sunday magazine" October
14th 2000 brings to the attention the forgotten
Australian children of the 50's & 60's.
up to 60,000 children across Australia



were sent to institutions during the 20th.
At this time it was believed that
institutions were good for children but this
is evidently untrue as these now grown
adults are scared & emotionally a wreck.
Childrens views at this time were after
discouraged & corporal punishment was fierce.
This related text shows that not all institutions
are built to create better lives for better.
The main difference between the childrens
homes & the farm is that the farm was a
place where the boys were able to rebuild
there lives where as the childrens homes
any life the children had hoped for was
stripped away. This is an important aspect
that could be raised in your program
as this has evidently unfolded that not
all institutions in our society are there to
make lives better.

The novel shows much about
society & its expectations it has on those



placed in conforming establishments. Mark has shown that society may have a simplistic view of how people should be reformed or conformed. Mark suggests that realizing & becoming aware of the life around you is the first step in overcoming the barricades in one's life. Society often forgets that there is more behind the story that we are represented with. Raw & the related texts have shown how personal growth & inner knowledge can have far reaching implications. We place institutions on what they can do but so personal growth & inner knowledge can have far reaching implications. Mark doesn't suggest that with understanding & compassion that all will be able to reform as Tyson here does but he suggests that by surrounding one with love, respect & a caring atmosphere many will be able to personally grow.

Raw & the related texts have shown what



society expects from institutions without
looking at the big picture. I believe that
these texts would be useful for our
company to show as they show that - there
is more behind societies simplistic of
institutions & personal experience.

~~has~~ yours sincerely
Katie Phu.