

Human society is an interwoven tapestry, where the desire to belong is a fundamental human need.

Belonging to a community, family or place brings about joy and a sense of self which is fostered by understanding. Not belonging brings about feelings of alienation and despair, partly due to a lack of understanding. ~~The~~ Throughout one's life, emotions involved in the scale of belonging vary. One may fit somewhere in between belonging and not belonging as it ~~is~~ can be transient, emotional or physical. Pain can be felt when being torn between two cultures.

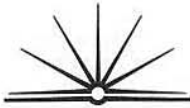
These concepts of belonging is explored through Immigrant Chronicles, by Peter Skrzynecki ~~and~~ and Sonnet 29 by William Sha-



Kespeare.

"Feliks Strykowski" is a poem, ~~which~~ written in first person from the son's point-of-view. Feliks was an émigré who has ~~found~~ ~~but~~ embraced his new culture in Australia, while ~~remaining~~ ~~actively~~ belonging to Polish culture through memory. ~~and~~

The poem is in the form of two parts, the first address the joy of belonging in a tone of admiration. Peter refers to his father as stoic, using hyperbole, "swept his garden ten times around the world." He also describes him as "gentle" despite hardships of migration and "five years in forced labour." Feliks understands his luck in ~~the~~ being able to belong to two cultures and has the



outlook of, "But I'm alive." Imagery shows the idealised peace of mind and joy his father receives,

~~"Sitting out the~~ "On the back porch, smoking, sitting out the night with his dog."

Peter ~~to~~ lacks understanding and ~~the~~ <sup>of both Australian and Polish</sup> culture therefore doesn't belong to either.

This is demonstrated in Post Card,

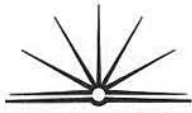
"remnants of a language I inherited unknowingly."

~~From~~ St Patrick's school

~~The school~~ motto 'Luceat Lux Vestra'

reinforces this idea of <sup>the</sup> language metaphor as ~~he~~ thought it <sup>was</sup> meant a brand of soap.

Likewise, the ~~is~~ stereotypical image of the crew-cut clerk asking Peter, "Did your father ever attempt to learn English?" ~~So~~ This shows



ignorance of those who don't allow others to belong. ~~and~~

Peter doesn't understand Polish culture which is evident when in Feliks.. ~~he says~~ he writes, 'I forgot my first Polish word,' and 'shook hands violently.'

Post card demonstrates displays Peter's parents belonging to the old idealised image of Poland. "Please show your parents" suggest an assumption that Peter lacks interest in Poland. ~~The~~ The tone of desperation of "what more do you want than the gift of despair" shows his confusion and rhetorical questions, show his confusion as to which culture he belongs to, if one at all.



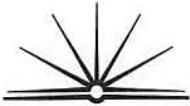
Similarly, Sonnet 29 portrays the protagonist jealous of others desiring 'this mans art and this mans scope' which relates to Peters subtle jealousy of his fathers ability and understanding of belonging, displayed by "Happy as I have never been".

The Sonnet is in the form of three quatrains and a rhyming couplet, which emphasises his final outlook; acceptance of his state as he 'wouldn't trade his place with kings'. There is a transition representing his changing state of mind, not unlike Peters in Felike..... The tone shifts from one of envy to one of content when he realises ~~that~~ he and understands that he finds belonging through is love. The catalyst



of his understanding is "Haply I think  
on thee."

The ~~to~~ bird motif in ~~the~~ Immigrant  
Chronicles expressed the search to  
belong. It is predominant in Migrant  
Hostel. For example 'like birds of passage'  
their alienation is epitomised by the  
symbol of the barrier, which kept  
them isolated from society. The  
simile 'fell and rose, like a finger'  
suggests scrutiny. Their lack of belonging  
in this case is due to other peoples  
lack of understanding of their individual  
situation. To ~~the~~ others, they are anonymous.  
This is shown by 'comings and goings' and  
'arrived in busloads'. The allusion to  
prison emphasises their ~~the~~ pain of <sup>half-</sup>belonging  
to two cultures. "Partitioned off at night"  
and "Nationalities sought each other



out instinctively" demonstrates the innate desire to belong within human kind.

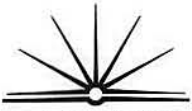
The motif of mothers ~~active~~ is evident throughout ~~the~~ 10 Mary Street, Feliks... and St Patricks College.

Generally it is positive and tends to the understanding of belonging however in St Patz... the mother motif has a negative impact. "what was best" is ironic as the mother didn't understand the best way for Peter to belong. The lack of mentioning of other people in the poem suggests he didn't belong, others didn't understand him and he didn't ~~the~~ understand the work. "I saw equations, I never understood."

In 10 Mary Street ~~the~~ mother nature signified, security, "left the key under the rusty bucket," domestic joy and positive growth in a new environment. ~~The~~ <sup>Peter's</sup> parents could enjoy the beauty of their garden here rather than use it only for sustenance. The run on line, "paddocks flowered, with ~~it~~ corn and wheat," contrasts to "~~tending~~ tended roses and chamelias like adopted children"

The active verbs in postcards and 10 Mary Street show both Peter's lack of understanding of Polish culture and his parents sense of belonging to their old culture. "Shelter," "cherish," "defend," "eat," "smoke" and "drink" are some of the emotive words expressed.





The protagonist in Sonnet 29 evolves his state of mind to come to an understanding and acceptance of his belonging represented by <sup>a shift in</sup> transition of tone. Peter doesn't find belonging as his attempt to understand either culture is poor and doesn't engage with his surroundings. Peter's parents on the other hand embrace both cultures and therefore have a deep sense of belonging.