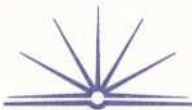


### Section III

There is no denying that change is an integral part of our world and our lives. Change is a constant process which has many consequences, both negative and positive. Some of the consequences include the acceptance of new responsibilities, changing perspectives on culture and the consequences of changes in social values as exemplified by the text Looking for Alibrandi and other related materials.

As we grow up and experience the different aspects life has to offer we begin to change and this change often brings about new responsibilities as a consequence. We have to face these responsibilities and accept them in order to move on with our lives.

In Looking for Alibrandi (Melina Marchetta) Josephine is a year 12 student and vice captain at ~~in~~ St. Marthas. One one occasion she is asked to supervise the tail end of a walkathon but doesn't take the responsibility seriously.



"Did any body appreciate that I had to lag behind the tail end of a walkathon just because some people were slow? No. Then I didn't care either." She denies her responsibility and runs into the city with friends but she is caught the next day - Sister Louise has a talk with Josie and she changes her perspective. "I was wrong in what I did yesterday. That's what the big deal was. I was responsible for them." Josie accepts the consequence of growing up and changing by accepting her responsibilities. The author shows this by a change in the characters attitudes and thoughts from that point on in the book.

The consequence of responsibilities as growing up and changing is also illustrated in sky High (Hannah Robert 1994). This text is about a girl who has ~~had~~ memories of climbing the clothes line when she was a child. "I feel the air flow around my outstretched arms and playfully tussle my hair. The earth spins below me. I am flying." As a child she had a lot of freedom but as she grows old she begins to change. As a

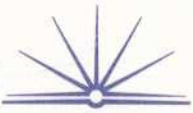


consequence she gains many new responsibilities and loses her childhood freedom. "The inclination is still there but it is unlikely the washing line could support me now. There are too many things tying me to the ground." She accepts her responsibilities as a consequence of change and growing up. The author represents this through a comparison between childhood and adulthood which points out all the differences and consequences of change.

Another area of change and its consequences is in cultural values. Some people migrate to other countries and this change often creates culture conflicts as an alternative which the people must deal with.

In Looking for Alibrandi, Josephine is a second generation Australian who has a strong Italian culture from her mother and grandmother. This causes her to feel "confused." "We were caught up in the middle of two societies!" However, Josie is able to change her





perspective on her culture by experiencing more of her Italian heritage, namely the Tomato Day. As a consequence of her change in perspective she is able to resolve her internal culture ~~struggles~~ struggles. "I am an Australian with Italian blood flowing rapidly through my veins." This allows her to move on with life. Melina is able to show this consequence by describing Josie's thoughts and behaviour before and after the change and comparing them.

The novel shogun (James Clavell, 1978) also reflects the consequences of change in cultural beliefs. It is a book about an English pilot in 1606 who accidentally sails to Japan where he is imprisoned and exploited for his knowledge. At first he is repulsed by their life style. "How can he kill himself for no reason? These people are maniacs." Eventually, he ~~is~~ gains freedom but cannot return back home. His English culture is in conflict with the Japanese life style but John eventually learns to accept it by changing his perspective. "Things are not

so bad here after all. I like living here, although I wouldn't mind a bear." ~~The~~ Blackthorn accepts both ~~a~~ cultures and this change resolves his culture conflicts thus enabling him to move on. James portrays this in a similar fashion to Melina, by describing the characters thought patterns before, during and after the change.

The undeniable changes in social values over the past decades have had several consequences such as an increase in single parents and a social acceptance of premarital sex.

In Looking for Alibrandi, Christina got pregnant at the age of 16 and her partner left her. As a result she was kicked out of her home because single parenting at such an early age brought shame to the family. However, since then things have changed. "Women with babies do get married these days." This change in social values has had several consequences such as an increase in premarital sex. "Welcome to the 90s Julie. Women

don't have to be virgins any more." This also had an increase on illegitimacy which is now socially accepted. "My illegitimacy is child's play now." Melina manages to convey this message by superimposing the beliefs of 2 generations. Nouna Katias views and Josephines views. This clearly shows the consequences of change is social values.

Further more, this point is emphasised by an article titled Is there a way out of the Wests culture crisis (Francis Fukuyama, 20 Nov 2000). This article contrasts the 1960s and 50s beliefs that women had to stay home and raise the children "he worked, she stayed home to raise the family" to the modern values and beliefs of freedom and equality. "It is now no worse growing up in a single parent family ~~than~~ than growing up in an intact one." This change has caused an increase in single parent families and in premarital sex. Francis portrays this point through statistical data.



In conclusion, change is all around us at all times and has many consequences. Some examples include the changes in personal responsibilities, changes in cultural views and changes in social values and their accompanying consequences. These issues were ~~to~~ exemplified by Looking for Alibrandi and a range of other related materials along with the techniques employed by the authors.