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Circle the text type:

Film

Drama production

Radio programme OR radio/audio performance

Television programme

Electronic text

Intertextual studies

Question number: 3

Title(s): Whale RiderAuthor(s)/director(s)/producer(s)/website(s): Nikki Caro

PLANNING

QUOTES:

- 1) "Weave together the threads of Paikaea so our line remains strong." - Koro.
- 2) "There was no gladness when I was born."
- 3) "He was looking for a leader, the one who was going to lead our people out of the darkness and make everything all right again." - Pai.
- 4) "The land felt a great emptiness. It was waiting, waiting to be loved." - Pai
- 5) "But they weren't listening. So I tried. And they heard me." - Pai.
- 6) "You're a girl, get to the back." - Koro.
- 7) "My name is Paikaea Apirana and I come from a long line of chiefs stretching all the way back to Hawaiki." - Pai.
- 8) "... I... Our people will keep moving forward... With all our strength." a) Please forgive me Master, for I am just a fledgling new to flight." - Koro.

Question: extent agree Whale Rider offers insight into society - (past or present).

Koro - past society / traditional values

Pai - present society / modern values

- Theme: Breaking societal barriers* (traditional and cultural).
- Pai being a female leader*
- Symbolism: reiputa symbolises Maori society in Whangara.
- Pai and Koro's relationship*
- Symbolism: Whale represents Pai's leadership capability.

Start your essay on the next page.

Begin your essay here:

'Whale Rider' directed by Nikki Caro, is a New Zealand film about a young Maori girl named Paikea^{Apirana} and her symbolic up-bringing in the community of Whangara. As a kiwi film, Whale Rider offers insight into Whangara not only Whangara's society, but also the societal expectations of past and present Maori communities. Through the use of Pai and Koro's complex relationship, the symbolism of the reiputa ~~and the whale~~ and Pai becoming ~~the~~ overcoming obstacles to be a female leader, Nikki Caro offers ~~views~~ insight into society by conveying and reinforcing the theme of 'Breaking societal expectations', in 'Whale Rider'.

Throughout the film, we are offered insight into society through Pai and Koro's complex relationship. Porourangi ^{the beginning of the film} When Paikea was born, her Koro was hoping to raise ^{as a new leader of their people} a new leader in her twin brother, but sadly he passed away. ~~It was at this early point of the film when~~ ~~Pai was~~ This left Koro heartbroken and furious at the fact that Porourangi, Paikea's father, had chosen to give her the name of 'Paikea', after the ancient Paikea who came to Whangara on a whale "There was no gladness when I was born." Because Pai was a girl, Koro disagreed with giving her the name of a leader. However, in the climax of the film, Koro ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~was~~ persuaded and believes that Pai is destined to be a leader "Please forgive me Maori, for I am just a fledgling new to flight."

Through Pai and Koro's complex relationship, we are offered insight into society because we see how Koro's traditional values societal values conflict with Pai's modern societal values, when he thinks that a girl cannot be a leader, ^{and she proves him wrong.} The theme of 'Breaking societal expectations' gives ~~us~~ ^{us} insight into the old ways of societal expectations of the past that only men should have the privilege of holding a leadership role.

Furthermore, the symbolic reiputa ~~and statue~~ ^{is an} effective tool at giving a mainstream audience insight into Maori society. In the first scene of the film, Paika as a ~~new~~ The reiputa (whale's tooth), is a central symbol in Maori society; it represents strength, courage and most importantly, leadership. In the first scene of the film, Paika as a new-born baby tries to grab it and this is used to foreshadow her endless determination to prove to her Koro that she is destined to be the one who "leads their people out of the darkness and makes everything all right again." In the catalytic climax of the film, Paika rides a beached, 'ancestral' whale back out to sea which ultimately conveys that she is a leader. Koro Pai ends up in hospital, and Koro places the reiputa around her neck as he begs for her forgiveness. ^{Therefore} The reiputa gives viewers insight into Maori society as it conveys and reinforces the idea that you in society you have to earn respect, just like

the respect of her Koro.

how Paikea fought to earn ~~the~~ ¹ Koro's respect.

Lastly, the depiction of Paikea overcoming obstacles to be a female leader gave viewers insight into modern society because it conveys the revolutionary idea that women can do anything men can do.

Throughout the entire film, Pai ~~overcomes~~ breaks societal expectations by never giving up. Her leadership qualities shine through in the 'school concert' scene when she talks of her heritage "My name is Paikea Apirana and I come from a long line of chiefs stretching all the way back to Hawaiki..." Although her spirits are worn, she still displays optimism by saying that her heritage has been a privilege and not a burden. At the end of the film, Pai repeats her speech with a different ending "My name is Paikea Apirana... Our people will keep moving forward... With all our strength." The fact that Pai overcame endless obstacles to be a female leader ~~eventually~~ ultimately reinforced the theme of 'Breaking societal expectations' because it gave viewers insight into the modern-day societal belief that women have just as much, if not more, power than men do.

In conclusion, ~~What is~~ the central theme 'Breaking societal expectations' gives ~~insight~~ ^{ins} insight into ~~society~~ many aspects of society because through the use of Pai and Koro's complex relationship,

the symbolism of the reiputo and Pai overcoming
 obstacles to be a female leader, Nikki Caro
 gives us insight into society by showing that the
~~notion that the past belief~~ tradition of ~~men only~~
 leading people is a thing of the past, that in
 society you have to earn respect and that
 women can do anything men can do. Therefore,
 I agree to a strong extent that 'Whale Rider'
 offers viewers insight into past and present
~~society~~, Maori and mainstream society.