Marrow Thieves Essay

Our life is shaped by the journeys we take and the people we connect with during them. The most significant group of people we meet along the way have the title family. In the book "The Marrow Thieves" by Cherie Dimaline, we see a modern take on who we consider family and the importance of this group of people. In history and present times family are here to support, nurture, and love us through every stage of life, even when they aren't physically present. This idea is timeless, but the people considered as a family has changed throughout the years.

The concept of family in the novel can be described as valuing those who come into your life during the hardships you experience. From the beginning of the book, we are presented with the information that the main character Frenchie has recently been broken up from all of his biological family. While dealing with the grief over the loss of his family, Frenchie is found and introduced to the character Miig. Through this interaction, Frenchie is welcomed into a group of eight youths and two adults, which he calls his chosen family. This family provided Frenchie with support, love, and the opportunity to find his identity. Frenchie began developing his first real emotional connection with RiRi by sharing "[His] recreation [of his family] as living, laughing people in the cool red confines of RiRi's tent..." Frenchie understands the importance of his family, even if they aren't physically there to support him. RiRi provides a safe space for him to express these recreations, which aids in creating a powerful bond between the characters. The maturing of Frenchie paints a beautiful picture of the importance and meaning of the relationships formed during your lifetime.

When tasked with creating a definition for the concept of family, I cannot formulate the perfect sentence to describe it. Family is a very obscure concept because the dictionary definition is different from mine. I don't believe that your family is only composed of those who are blood-related to you. In my eyes, family means possessing deep connections with those around you. These connections create an inseparable bond built on the foundation of trust, love, and support. I have formed these deep-rooted relationships with my friends, cheer team, and biological family. These people hold a special place in my heart because they continuously uplift and support me through every hardship and triumph I experience. Without my family, I wouldn't be able to achieve the positive mental, physical, and emotional status I currently have. The bonds I have created with my family have shaped me into the person I am today, which is something I will cherish forever.

When reading this book, I was delighted to see that the author and I have similar views on the concept of family. Comparing the novel to my life, I can see many similarities in the impact that family has on a person's development. As an example, the way that Frenchie deals with RiRi's death is similar to how I dealt with the passing of my aunt. Frenchie went through a period of despair due to the loss of an integral piece of his support system. Despite this, he never forgot about the impact RiRi had on his journey of maturing. I can relate to this because the passing of my aunt took a toll on my emotional state. My aunt was a significant role model in my life because she taught me a variety of lessons that helped me grow as a person. When she passed away a few years ago, I feared that I would lose my connection to her. Due to the positive impact she had on my development, the bond we created was never lost. In both situations, we can see the importance that family has on the development of an individual.

In conclusion, family is a vital theme to understand in and out of the book. Our family can have a considerable influence on the way we act, think, and feel. The novel creates a perfect portrayal of the impact and importance of family. Understanding our relationships with others allows us to create a support system that can uplift and nurture us. These systems are necessary to have while we're going through negative experiences. Every person deserves to have people they call family, as it's essential to the positive well-being and growth of an individual.

**Works Cited:**

Baker, Emily. “Top 10 Reasons Why Family Is Important In Our Life.” *Family Axis*, 20 Dec. 2019, <https://familyaxis.org/why-family-is-important-in-our-life/>.