Response

Ray Bradbury’s story “The Scythe” has relevance with biblical allegory. Edwin struggles to understand the meaning of death and attempts to explore the other world. he finally discovers the other world by choosing to climb the forbidden path. He reaches biblical Saul and finds his mother lies motionless. The story explains the attainment of freedom is linked to one’s death.

Allan Baillie’s “Only Ten” stresses on the search for identity and self. The story is linked to the history of colonization in which people of colonized nations were the victim of violence and injustice. The native people struggled to search their independent identities because colonizers forced them to leave their cultural values and lifestyles. This reflects the adverse implications of colonization on the native communities. The children of colonized people experienced inner conflict.

“The Blue Knight” transmit the themes of mental instability associated with war. The old man who had experienced failed to return to normal life. He continues to experience the same events of war and considers himself as a knight. His inability to overcome his misery depicts the implications of war on people. War incidents continue to haunt him and have detrimental impacts on his mental health. War brings destruction, damages and tragedy to the people who are victims.

Maya Angelou’s “Caged Bird” conveys the themes of freedom and isolation. Desire form freedom is visible in the lines, “can seldom see through, his bars of rage. His wings are clipped and his feet are tied” (Angelou). The poem is used for expressing the feelings of the bird who want to escape the cage and explore the world. The absence of freedom undermines independence and happiness. The bird is struggling to attain freedom that is denied by the owner of the bird.