Your Name

Instructor Name

Course Number

Date

I’m Still Standing by Shoshana Johnson

**Introduction**

Sufferings are part of life and appear in everyone’s life in various shapes and different measures. The moment of calamity is the time to remain calm and bravely deals with the undesired scenario. The hardships of captivity in another country are impressively illustrated by Shoshana Johnson in her biography that originally published in 2010. It is noteworthy to mention that different themes of the book are strongly explained by her in the forms of various motifs. This means that she successfully utilized symbolic images or ideas to convey the main theme of the story to the potential audience. Bravery and candor in extraordinary circumstances are discussed by the author in this book. Shoshana Johnson uses her book, I’m still standing, to deliver the lesson of courage and commitment that is essential to overcome difficult situations in life.

**Discussion**

Shoshana Johnson amazingly describes her entire journey of first black female prisoner of war in the history of the United States. This incident appeared in March 2003, during the Iraqi Freedom Operation. Undoubtedly, it was a drastic period for her to survive in imprisonment and turned back as the great worrier. As the ordinary woman caught in a worse war situation, it was adverse for her to successfully deals with post-traumatic stress disorder and fight like a fighter on the front lines of war (Bain). Undoubtedly, it is difficult to imagine the intensity of the situation she faced during her time in Iraq as a part of the US army. As a member of the 507th Maintenance Company, she remarkably explained her journey of survival when she and fellow soldiers were salvaged by the Marines.

           A comprehensive understanding of this book helps to identify the main theme of this autobiography described by Shoshana Johnson. It is the story of courage and hopes that associated with various life challenges. It is significant to indicate that different symbols are successfully apprehended by the author to convey her message to the readers in the most impressive manner. There are many strong words appeared in the story that explains the entire journey of Shoshana Johnson from custody to free citizen (NPR). Identification and critical consideration of all these words are a necessary condition to successfully grasp the main theme of this piece of writing. The phase of interrogation is one example appeared in the book that helps readers to determine her bravery and honesty with her profession and country.

           She described her situation during captivity as the symbol to explain her bravery throughout the journey of endurance. This specific idea can easily get through the words, “I knew walking around wasn’t helping. I was pretty sure there was a broken bone in my left leg and both of my feet were so swollen it was hard to recognize them as belonging to me. As horrible as the pain was, I vowed I wouldn’t take any more of the painkiller.” (Johnson, 93) Her words are a clear explanation of the drastic scenario of imprisonment faced by her with the hope of survival and meet her children. She successfully utilized various forms of words to describe the intensity of the situation she had to face as part of the US Army in the country of Iraq. The hardships of twenty-two days in prison were amazingly mentioned by her to deliver the true message of bravery and commitment to the readers.

**Conclusion**

To conclude the discussion on the explanation of themes of bravery and honesty mentioned in Shoshana’s biography, it is significant to indicate that choice of words played an important role to grab the audience’s attention. The details of different events are helpful to imagine the intensity of the situation faced by Shoshana Johnson during the journey of survival.

**Works Cited**

Bain, Rebecca. “Book Reviews: I’m Still Standing.” *Bookpage*, 2010.

Johnson, Shoshana. *I’m Still Standing: From Captive US Soldier to Free Citizen--My Journey Home*. Simon and Schuster, 2010.

NPR. “First Blck Woman POW ‘Still Standing.’” *NPR*, 2010.