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Essay#2 English

Comparison of Themes of Intergenerational Conflict in Two Essays Date

No one lives a life that is either a bed of roses or the bed of thorns. Life is all about a unique and customized combination of happiness and sorrows. The pattern of these feelings vary and so does their magnitude for everyone. However, life is comparatively simpler and rather easier to some extent when people live with their own community. The community that has the likes of them and that shares similar origins, beliefs, and benefits. While the lives of those who are a misfit in any sense to the environment in which they live are not like those in the previous case. They obviously have to face some difficulty in adjusting to the environment and adapting to the norms of society. Sometimes the immigrants adapt themselves and the locals cannot accept them and other times the locals have an open and welcoming society but their culture is so alien for the immigrant that they find is difficult to adjust in that society and to live up to the cultural norms of it. The essays that are under discussion are also depicting the lives of the people that are a misfit to the land they live in, and it compares the struggle of them being accepted by the locals and the difficulties that they face while the process.

The essay In the American Society portrays the picture of a family that is originally Chinese but has moved to the US. Jen, unintentionally, displays the unwillingness American people have to take others in. The family struggles a lot to get mingled with the Americans. Mrs Chang joins a community club and makes Mr Chang agree for joining too. She buys him a costly suit for a party at the club, but the party turns out to be the moment of realization for the family that they are not one of the Americans. The whole family especially Mr Chang has to face sheer embracement. Firstly the people at the club clearly show that they did not like the idea of others coming to the party, despite all the efforts that they put in to mingle with them. The main event that was an eye-opening moment for the family was when Jeremy humiliated Mr Chang in front of the whole club. While drunk he shouted at him saying, "Who are you?" Though he apologized for his behavior latter however the insult that it caused to the Chang family could not be compensated. The Changs then realize that they cannot change their identity from Chinese to Americans. Another notable incident that happened at the party was that Mrs Lardner asks Callie to serve food, as she all of a sudden catches herself with a lack of waiters. This is the sort of cultural bias shown towards Changs.

The people around them will always remember they're true identity and will never consider them as one of them.

The other essay namely Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of a Eurasian, is the insight into the mind of a Eurasian child. This essay narrates a succession of apparently detached yet moving spirits, views, and sentiments as a reaction to the ruthless and casual dehumanization of the Chinese nation that much of America contained at the time. The author narrates in intense detail the agony and misperception she suffered under the ignorant veil of prejudice. She has a Chinese mother and American father so she is alien for both the cultures and that intensifies her problems. She draws upon the experiences in her life that have brought the difficulty of having both cultures, and each one refusing her since the share of her that is outlandish to them. Both the communities seem threatened by the heritage of her, because of the American’s prejudice against Chinese and that of Chinese against Americans. (GradeSaver).

In childhood, she had the very first encounter with the fact that she is something different than the others when she heard two nurses whispering that her mom is Chinese. She also had to listen to the rash comments of the other kids about the fact that she is from China or has Chinese blood. She spent her life thinking about why people judge her by the heritage of her. Not only the Americans but the Chinese have the same prejudice against her because she is equally alien to them.

Both the essays are portraying the picture of the society that denies accepting the foreigner immigrants. Despite all the efforts of the immigrants and the seeming aliens to assimilate with them, the locals do not seem to be ready to accept them as one of them. The prejudice of them against the Chinese heritage of them remains constant.

# Works Cited

GradeSaver. *Leaves from the Mental Portfolio of a Eurasian Themes | GradeSaver*. https://www.gradesaver.com/leaves-from-the-mental-portfolio-of-a-eurasian/study-guide/themes. Accessed 25 Apr. 2019.