

## BODY PARAGRAPH ONE

Basis of Comparison # 1: Emotional Reactive

(What is being compared/contrasted?)

Topic Sentence:

In *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, Evan Whitesky and Justin Scott play characters that show different emotional reactions. Justin often prioritizes what seems right to him ahead of the overall community, whereas Evan genuinely considers the thoughts and feelings of others.

Point:

Scott's mindset is focused solely on how to protect himself, putting his own security above all.

Proof:

As said in the book "Now you fuckin' listen to this chief!" Scott ordered. "No quick moves! If you want to come in here, it's on our terms!". "Jesus, Scott," he whispered through his teeth. "What the fuck?" "There'll be more coming, Terry," he responded. "We gotta make a stand." He kept his pistol pointed at the others. "You didn't have to shoot him. You had no right to shoot him. You're an outsider here, too, remember." "He was desperate and crazy. I was protecting us." (Rice, 141)

Explanation:

Justin's behavior, particularly his use of violence reveals his lack of respect for the community's rules and his ignorance of his position within. However, with the community setting of the book, conflicts usually settled but working together and understanding. Due to his lack of consideration for the greater impact of his actions on the community, Scott's attitude towards protecting the community comes out as self-centered and selfish.

Point #2: On the other hand, Evan Whitesky has genuine compassion for the thoughts and feelings of others.

Proof: "Don't worry about that, though," said Evan. "We're fine here. We got things under control. But we need everyone on the same page. So go home, let your families know you're here, and I'll go get Terry and everyone else together. Let's meet at the band office later this afternoon whenever you're ready." (Rice, 76)

Explanation: Evan is committed to working in the most beneficial way for the community, not just for his own benefit. Through this Evan also shows his leadership skills and his capacity to thoughtfully and respectfully deal with difficult challenges by proceeding cautiously, protecting the community's long-term security and resilience.

Link: Evans's thoughtful decision-making highlights his capacity to promote a sense of togetherness among the community members. On the other hand, Justin's aggressive actions cause conflict and tension between the community members.

Concluding Statement: Through the characters of Evan and Justin, Rice demonstrates the dynamics of human behavior and emphasizes the significance of how one's actions reflect on a community.

## BODY PARAGRAPH TWO

### Basis of Comparison # 2: Selfishness vs Selflessness

Topic Sentence: The conflict between one's own needs and the greater good of the community is brought to light by the different views on selfishness and selflessness that Evan Whitesky and Justin Scott demonstrate throughout the book.

Point #1: Scott's selfish behavior towards the community not only affects the people but Indigenous culture as well, showing lack of respect towards the values and traditions.

Proof: Living on Indigenous land means respecting the land and its creations, Scott clearly has no concept of that. As shown here we can see the utter disrespect he shows towards the land's creation as well as the Anishinaabe language "His target fell to the snow. "Fuckin' 'im! Woohoo!" he belted out. Dan, Isaiah, Evan, and Jeff Whitesky crouched in the snow behind the newcomer. "Looks like you weren't kidding, zhaag-naash," said Jeff, pushing his glasses up his nose. "You can shoot." "Ha ha!" Scott gloated. He twisted his

torso to face the men behind him and squinted into the cold white landscape. "It's been a long time since I bagged a moose in the winter. They're basically like sitting ducks out there, eh?" "What's a zhaagnaash, anyway?" asked Scott. He pronounced the long vowels nasally and abruptly, and that made Isaiah and Jeff snicker. "It's our traditional word for 'helpful friend,'" replied Evan. "That's bullshit and you know it," grumbled Scott" (Rice.124-125). Furthermore, we can once again see this very disturbing scene where Scott took of the dead bodies to feast on "Huh? What do you mean?" "Scott took a body." "Come on, man. That's crazy. What for?" "To eat." Evan paused. There was a heavy stillness in the big room". (Rice, 196)

Explanation: Justin's actions demonstrate his selfish behavior as he puts his comfort wants and needs ahead instead being inconsiderate about the community. His lack of participation in helping the community that took him in despite being at risk truly shows how egoistic and selfish nature.

Point #2: On the other hand, Evan consistently prioritizes the needs of the community before his own. He actively participates in community events and makes sure that everyone has access to basic necessities.

Proof: "Evan was immediately annoyed, knowing that there would be more lights on and more toilet flushes than there should be. He took a deep breath and tried to contain his bubbling anger before walking into the kitchen." (Rice, 130). As seen here, Evans initial reaction may seem annoyed but really, he's just concerned about the community not cooperating with the whole situation. Throughout the book Evan is actively participating in community events, ceremonies, rituals, food distributions and many other things "There's only one box left," said Tyler. "Just one?" asked Evan, a couple of steps behind him." (Rice, 176). We can especially see how deeply he is connected to Indigenous Spirituality and the respect he shows towards it "Evan carefully waved the feathers across the burning sage, moving more smoke through the room. Aileen cupped her hands over the smudge and started to guide it over her body. She washed it over her head, up and down her arms, down her torso, her legs, and then turned so Evan could smudge her back and shoulders." (Rice, 52)

Explanation: Evans acts of selflessness demonstrate his commitment to protecting the traditions of Indigenous culture. Equally important, he continuously prioritizes the welfare of the community over his own, actively trying to encourage a feeling of cohesiveness among the community.

Link: The different levels of selfishness and selflessness shown by Evan and Justin highlight the main idea of the book, which is working together as a community is what gives a work its genuine strength.

Concluding Statement: With this evident theme throughout the book shown by many different characters, we can see who made a difference and who caused the problems.

### BODY PARAGRAPH THREE

#### Basis of Comparison # 3: Survival

Topic Sentence: Justin and Evan may have many personal differences but both Justin and Evan demonstrate extraordinary survival skills.

Point #1: Even though Scott's survival skills are only demonstrated for self-serving motives, we can't forget that he knows how to use his skills and is very confident in them.

Proof: His confidence in his skills as a hunter and survivalist are evident as seen here "Well, Chief Meegis, I'm a hunter, much like you are, I assume. I can help provide for your community. I'm a survivalist. I know how to live on this land without the comforts and luxuries people in the South have become too dependent on." (Rice, 107). This not only shows Justin's confidence but also shows a deeper understanding of the harsh reality they are living in. "That's why we're out here, isn't it?" "No, we're out here because you promised to play a part here," Evan reminded him. Scott shot him an icy gaze that the others didn't notice. "I am playing a part," Scott retorted. "You've seen what I brought to the table." (Rice, 125)

Explanation: Despite his questionable motives, Justin's cleverness, flexibility, fast thinking, and strong decision-making abilities make him a valuable tool in the challenging times that the community is facing.

Point #2: Evan Whitesky, on the other hand, bases his survival strategy on his strong bond with the land and his steadfast dedication to his community. With years of hunting and tracking, Evan has developed a personal understanding of the area, which he uses to showcase his extraordinary survival abilities. Because of his strong ties to the land, he is able to sustain not only his family but the community at large during difficult times.

Proof: Evan possesses not just survival skills but also resilience and leadership in the community. His ability to support his family and community contrasts dramatically with Justin's more self-serving behaviour, demonstrating his compassion and commitment to the greater good.

Explanation: Evan is committed to working in the most beneficial way for the community, not just for his own benefit. Through this Evan also shows his leadership skills and his capacity to carefully deal with difficult challenges by proceeding cautiously and protecting the community's long term security and resilience.

Link: Evan's thoughtful decision making highlights his capacity to promote a sense of togetherness among the community members. On the other hand, Justin's aggressive actions cause conflict and tension between the community members.

Concluding Statement: Through Evan and Justin, Rice demonstrates the dynamics of the human behaviour and emphasizes the significance of how one's actions reflect on a community.