Samantha Drobney
Mrs. Stanford
ENG 237 - Annotated Bibliography
April 22, 2016

Overcoming Adversity and Hardship


This is a personal article written by the son of Robert Leslie Evans, and he is the real life model of the protagonist, Tayo, within Silko’s work. By knowing that this article is done by a relative of the author this article will be reliable when needing personal information that wasn’t emphasized within the book. Leslie Silko revolved all of Tayo’s beliefs and values due to Robert Leslie Evans, he was a Japanese prisoner of war who suffered a great deal of pain. Learning about Tayo’s real life outside of this book gives a more meaningful understanding of his character role and provides knowledge that is useful but yet wouldn’t be known by just reading the book. This article will be used to indicate how Tayo’s life outside of this book relates to how he coped with the challenges he was faced with. By using personal information readers will learn more about Tayo which will spark a deeper connection between the protagonist and the reader.

Sharon Holm is a professor at the University of London and recently has started to write about the culture and beliefs of Native Americans. That is why she gravitated towards Leslie Silko’s book *Ceremony*, and gave a deep critical analysis over the book as a whole. Her analysis was focused on the connection that exists between the Native Americans and their narrative forms such as ceremonies, myths, and stories. She discusses the difficulties that indigenous people of the U.S had of keeping their cultural identity and their struggles for sovereignty. No other journal articles discuss their viewpoints on the difficulties that the Native Americans went through when it came to imperialism and nationalism. That is why the information in this article will be used to support my main point of Tayo’s tribe having to overcome their minority and accepting themselves while keeping their culture alive.


In Ravi Kumar’s article, “*Ceremonies of Culture a Study of Leslie Marmon Silko*”, he grasps many themes of the book that are prominent and other themes that are found deep in the underlying context of Leslie Silko’s work. He first begins to describe the plot of the story, and how each event affected different characters throughout the book. Then he starts displaying the symbols that are found within the context of this story and the significance that each of these symbols hold. Along with this Ravi Kumar explains that the novel has several focus points such as racism, love, warfare and the abuse of drugs and alcohol. He explains the physiological process that many of the characters went through when coping with the war and the loss of one of their fellow soldiers. His insights and personal viewpoints of the story and characters will
help to build a well-established understanding of the book itself and also provide useful values and beliefs when applying them within the body paragraph which provides evidence to demonstrate that each character had to overcome change.


Robert M. Nelson is a professor at the University of Richmond, there he teaches students a variety of courses in Native American Literature. Along with possessing a wide knowledge in Native American literatures he is also the former co-editor of the journal, *Studies in American Indian Literature*. Since Robert Nelson is very infatuated with this type of literature, he took *Ceremony* and depicted the main physiological and psychological aspects of Tayo. By bringing these aspects attention he proves how Tayo’s medical condition with his vision affected him throughout the book. This condition with Tayo’s eyes is important because this is when doctor Betonie lead Tayo to believe that witchery is real and that he is becoming blind through a curse. This article will be useful in a paragraph that supports one of the many obstacles that Tayo had to overcome and it will also be used to prove Tayo’s transformation throughout the book as he accepted the many challenges that he was dealt with.


Although this article by Katy Smith is not related directly towards Leslie Silko’s book *Ceremony*, there is a theme in the article that is also prominent in the book. Which is Native
Americans adapting to the cultural changes that were imposed by white Americans. Kathy Smith explains in this article the difficulties Native Americans had trying to preserve their own traditional culture because the white Americans very heavily influenced their beliefs. Although the tribe felt as if the whites were over running culture beliefs and manipulating the landscape they decided to make the best of of their situation and adapt to some of the whites traditional values. They only adapted to the values that had the most advantages and the best offers so their tribe as a whole would benefit. They integrated their foundational values with new values that they had learned from the whites to make one solid foundation that was custom to everyone at the time. This work will help form the idea that it is possible for different ethnicities to work and live together as one and instead of denying one another's cultural values that it is important to accept and adapt values other than their own.


June Todd is a successful and well known lecturer in writing at the University of California. His writing skills and his diction are what makes his writings stand out to people. In this particular article he makes it very prominent of whom Tayo was before he enlisted into the army. Before the army Tayo was on a good path and although he was influenced by white culture because of where he went to school he still appreciated and respected the values and stories of the Laguna folk. Aside from learning about who Tayo was before the war and the culture of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, June Todd shows the parallel between the state of mind and state of belly. Which means he described in depth the mental disorientation that Tayo obtained due to the war such
as post traumatic stress disorder and depression. It was physically and mentally impossible for Tayo to face the external forces that were thrown his way throughout the book. This article can be put to use within the rebuttal of the essay to display that Tayo couldn’t accept change or conquer obstacles because of his state of mind due the war and his cousin’s death.