

Trauma

When I was a little girl I experienced a highly traumatic event. Not that that was the most traumatic one ever. I experienced four traumatic events that have changed me forever. The first was a car accident. I was not involved but my cheerleading coach was and she almost died. Luckily she survived and it taught me that I have to live everyday like it's the last. The next was a suicide. When I was a sophomore a boy at my school accidentally shot himself in the head and died. It was horrific and taught me the same lesson. Next was my trip to New Orleans in 2009. It still haunts me, everything I saw. The despair, the hopelessness, the helplessness. Orphaned children, empty houses, graveyards so full no more people can be buried in them. However the most traumatic event was a family relation issue. When I was I got a new cousin in my family and he severely traumatized me. These events have changed me in more ways than I can express. I've grown.

Global warming

I believe highly in global warming. The scientific reasoning behind it is too powerful to argue, in my opinion. Global warming is not severely changing the weather yet but small changes have been noticed. For instance, I live in Cleveland, along lake erie, well I did until I moved to Cincinnati for college. Anyway, we always used to have four distinct seasons and they all came in their own entirety. However recently all the seasons have taken a turn for the worse. The summers are hotter, the winters are colder and snowier. Spring comes later and fall comes earlier. The weather changes have been enough to be noticed but not enough to cause alarm. I feel that the weather patterns are strictly scientific yet the global warming argument is based on a lot of opinions. I feel that if there were more structured, scientific, firmly founded experiments and observations performed towards the idea of global warming that there would be a scientific answer as to whether or not global warming is really happening or it's a phenomenon created by scientists to cover up a bigger problem that our earth may be facing. However without a strict study conducted, the topic will continue to strike argument and to strike nerves of both supporters and anti-groups. I think

Blood Dazzler Material

I felt the material of the book was all the same, terrible poetry that was hard to read and terrorizing to think about. Honestly i lived during hurricane Katrina, I saw it on the news and in the papers and I don't think this "book" did it any justice. What the people of the south especially in New Orleans witnessed cannot be summarized in a book of poems or in a song or in any other way. They can speak about it but there will always be details that people will either never be able to convey or be able to understand. Trauma is like death, until you experience it , you have no idea how it feels and once you experience it, you can't explain the feeling to others. I felt like this book was trying to be a sympathy card. You know the one you get after someone you love dies. The one that people send just so you know they're thinking of you. Yeah they're thinking of you but they have no bloody idea of how you're feeling. Even if they've lost someone, everyone's different. But the cards are always the same, they don't help, they just remind you of what you've been through it's like a horror scrapbook. I felt like the author was just throwing a bone into the issue of emotions regarding the events of Katrina. Although most of her work is very highly

regarded, I didn't quite understand why this book was on the same level. I personally feel like this book speaks to people who have no idea what Katrina truly did to that city. They feel connected by this set of poems. You can read all you want, poems, fiction, news. You can watch movies, newscasts, documenteries. It doesn't matter until you yourself see it, you don't understand it. Maybe this comes from the fact that I did see it, I saw the aftermath, I saw the people who were suffering from this weather attack. I met children who lost their parents in the storm, so maybe I'm biased. It could be. But if you go to new Orleans, it's a city like no other. The spirit of that city can't be broken but the people have been through hell and back to make it that way. The citizens of new Orleans, the bar owners, the vendors, the cooks. People who make the city beautiful for tourists but who can't get away from everything when everyone else leaves. Those people, are a magnificent force who can't be summarized by a poet or a set of poems. I'm not saying Smith is untalented or unqualified but I think that the poems lack and again that may be my experience. This is what I think people should know, did you know that children in new Orleans play underneath a highway. That's right, there's sand underneath a highway and that's their "playground". How do I know? I got to paint one. We went into this children's center where kids come to learn and grow. I got to meet them, we went out to these cement pillars and they were bare, cold, gray pillars. So we painted them in bright colors and wrote words like hope and joy and dream. We painted shapes like stars and hearts and we tried to give those kids something they lost. It was an experience that no book can ever give you. I just wish everyone had the chance to experience something like that first hand because it truly changes your life, who you are, how you live and what you take for granted. I'm not perfect but I do know that I have truly grown and this book frankly, upset me. Point blank, this book, in my opinion, was upsetting and

Blood Dazzler Connections

In my opinion this book did speak to many, many problems that reside in our world today. Things like poverty and homelessness. Things that many people, I don't think realize are there. Honestly, I think that if you asked people what the poverty rate or the percentage of people in a certain age group who are homeless are, they would be very low. The rates now a days are shocking. However I think the book highlighted the poverty and homelessness issues in new Orleans that came from the hurricane and I think we can all be honest that new Orleans wasn't the greatest city in those areas before the disaster let alone after. People are still rebuilding and its 2013, the hurricane happened in 2005. That's EIGHT years. If it was California, New York, Boston, Chicago, would it be the same? We can debate that all day but if you look at facts, hurricane sandy hit the east coast last fall. The east coast is on a speedy way to recovery. You can't tell me that that's not because of money because it is but why is that fair. People in new Orleans lost everything and had to completely start over. They were back at square one. The people in hurricane sandy are nearly back to normal life. Fair? No. expected in today's society? Yes. Everything in the world today and even in 2005 is based on money. Where the money is, is where the help is. At first, and I think that the book didn't highlight that. The book highlighted the issues in new Orleans that arose after the hurricane but truly is it fair to believe that's right? I feel like this book spoke to racial justicies, in other words those who fight the injustice behind racism. The book written by a Chicago native, clearly brings up the idea of a fish tank. In other words she writes about this idea of how America "looked in" on those affected by the hurricane. Merely trying to compare it to a person staring at a fish stuck in a

fish tank as much precedent as race has today, it has to be noted that race has been an issue in our country for decades. Starting with Martin Luther King, Jr. and the whole civil rights movement to the treatment of muslims after 9/11. It's appauling to think of but please take a second too. I was only 7 when 9/11 happened. I remember this boy in my class, I never talked to him but he was muslim. His parents pulled him out of school in January of 2002. Is that fair? No but it all has to do with his race and his beliefs. I truly feel that