Lens #1

Dr. Sherry

2/6/12

YALIT

Reader Response

Nat Fields, a member of a theatre group called Company Boys becomes selected to perform Shakespeare’s famous *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. He is to perform this at a replica of the famous Globe theatre in London. Nat is an After he becomes ill and delirious, a time warp sends Nat back to Elizabethan time as an actor named Nathan Fields. As Nat takes Nathans role as Oberon, he learns he will be performing in front of Queen Elizabeth I. During this journey Nat gains a fatherly figure in a friend named Will, the famous William Shakespeare. Will plays an important role in Nat’s life due to his loss of his parents a young age. When Nat re awakens and returns to present time he becomes crushed yet learns to cope with the loss of his parents.

This text definitely reminds me of a point in my own life. Like Nat, I have experienced the loss of a parent, my father. Although Nat suffered from a greater loss, both his character and I find ourselves struggling with the obstacles thrown our way. We both have a hard time trying to cope with our losses. Like Nat, I sometimes find myself with underlying issues that I tend to keep hidden. Similar to Nat, I find a fatherly figure in someone else such as my brother in law, whenever I need that role in my life. Nat finds a way to escape his loss through acting, while I deal with mine through writing. Although they are different, we both have ways of dealing with this reality.

*King of Shadows* does seem to be a novel that many young adults can relate to. Cooper uses this novel to portray a feeling to her readers. I took this feeling as relief. Relief is hard to find when faced with the loss of a parent, in Nat’s case both. Nat finds a way to gain relief through acting. It’s his reason to keep going, to make his parents proud. For many young adults this feeling is difficult to come across.

The text also shows a major influence of friendship throughout the novel. Nat finds friendship through Will and his present days friends as well. Having friendships and family relationships is extremely significant to readers, especially as young adults. At this age friends and family are our stable rocks, the ones we need to catch us when we fall. Nat’s character represents someone who can rely on his friends whenever he needs some support. He even finds a love in poetry. This picture of friendship portrays a quality that many young adults struggle with throughout all ages. Cooper did an excellent job conveying that sometimes all you need is a friend in life to get you through, even if that friend remains in a book.