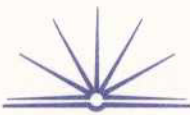


As stones thrown into ponds make ripples... all changes have consequences. These consequences may be positive or negative. Changing self is the alteration of an individual through time, tragedy and triumph as they discover who they are and what their place is in the world through deliberate actions and unexpected happenings. Once this change takes place, the consequences ~~are~~ can be optimistic or pessimistic. The autobiographical novel, My Place by Sally Morgan is a journey through her life ~~as she~~ physically and emotionally, as she discovers and comes to terms with her Aboriginal identity. The related text, "Sturt's Dreaming" from the BOS booklet and other texts; "Changes" by Tupac Shakur, The film Radiance by Louis Nowra and an article from the SMH on Cathy Freeman all show that there are consequences to changing self. ^{Shaped by language and film techniques.} Change is an unavoidable force which makes us reflect upon who we are and what our place is in the world, motivated



by events and people.

In My Place when Sally first discovers she is an Aborigine, she is led to believe that there are negative consequences. Her sister, Jan states bluntly "we're black." Her family make Sally feel as if it is a curse to be black.

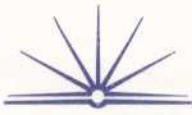
The narrative structure of the novel shows a personal moment in Sally's life.

At this point, Sally has a "tenuous sense of identity" and is led to believe the consequences of her Aboriginality are negative. Sally then realises that her new found heritage is a gift and is a motivation for change to occur, ~~So this event caused ripples~~.

(Similarly, in "Sturt's Dreaming" by Bruce Lingscott, (from the BOS) Sturt is led to believe that the consequences of his discovery are a bad thing.

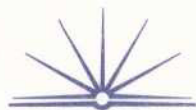
"Sturt's Dreaming" is a journey into the mind of explorer, Charles Sturt, and his expedition to find an inland sea in the centre of Australia.

As the poem begins, the tone is full of hope of grandeur, with Sturt and his "steadfast men" setting off. The inland sea is already "coolly



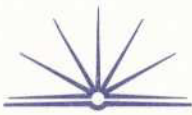
lapping in Sturt's mind! ~~As~~ The poet uses irony in the fact that Sturt is searching for something that the poet and reader know is not there. The tone changes as the poem progresses to a slow, dis'sappointing reality. The composer uses "hot, red, sand" to convey the message that the consequences of this change are negative. Like My Place however, Sturt did manage to solve the puzzle of Australia's rivers, like Sally discovered her Aboriginality was a gift.

Two incidents in My Place written as anecdotes help to convey an understanding of change. When Sally is younger, she is told by the Deacon of the church to "stop mixing with Mary," her friend. Sally is "hurt and disappointed" because this is her first real encounter with racism. ~~The~~ When Sally attends uni she is accused of gaining an Aboriginal scholarship "under false pretences". Sally learned from the consequences of her first confrontation with racism and



stands up for herself. "I told them the truth" and from that point on he "life had new purpose. To find out more about what it meant to be Aboriginal". These two anecdotes used as a technique show the change in Sally over time.

In contrast, the lyrics of the song, "Changes" by Tupac Shakur explain that changes must be made in our society to rescue African Americans from racism, crime, and socio-economic disadvantage. However, the composer believes the consequences will never come because things will never change. "I see no changes, all I see is racist faces" shows his frame of mind is pessimistic. The composer uses the technique of slang language such as "I'm tired of bein' poor, even worse cos I'm black" to show how genuine his situation is. This is different to Sally in that Sally ~~has~~ recognises the problem of racism and takes positive steps to change the consequences



that are so commonly associated with black people. "Changes" believes the consequences of change can only be negative through his use of personal language-techniques.

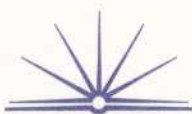
Sally's Grandmother, Daisy believes that the 'stone' ~~to~~ should not ever be thrown because she fears the consequences of change.

Daisy rejects the notion of change, stating "can't you just leave the past buried?" Daisy knows that ~~change~~ in order to change, she must reveal demons from her past that are disturbing to her. Sally wanted her "to change.

To be proud" of her Aboriginal identity.

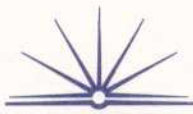
Once Daisy finally accepts the consequences of her decision to change, she can move on with her life. Daisy is helped

to do this through the narrative technique of giving Daisy a section of the book to allow for a different perspective of change.



Similarly, in the film, Radiance by Louis Nowra, the three characters must accept the consequences of their ~~changing~~ before they can find their own place in the world.

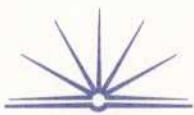
Radiance is a film about 3 Aboriginal half sisters with little in common ~~ex~~ except their dysfunctional childhood who come together for their mother's funeral. There, they realise they share a common bond, finding their own place in the world. Mae states, "I wanted to know where my family came from!" when she pleads to her mother. All 3 girls want to find out more about themselves but in order to do this they must accept the consequences of the change by revealing the demons from the past. The film technique in the final scene conveys the image of ~~fit~~ completion when the girls accept the consequences and change as individuals, together. The 3 girls drive off into the sunset, laughing, showing the



change that has taken place and the final consequences of that change.

When Sally returns from her journey to discover more about her Aboriginal heritage, she realises all of the consequences of her change. "From a grubby five-yr old", to a grown woman with a sense of identity. One person who was inspirational in Sally's change was Uncle Arthur. Uncle Arthur also has a section of the novel devoted to his story, using colloquial language such as "~~that~~" "black fella's" to give a personal feeling. The chance to tell his story also gives another individual's perspective of change. Sally now understands the consequences of her change, inspired by people and events.

Similarly, an article on Cathy Freeman from the SMH shows that the process of change is a long and full fulfilling journey full of both positive and negative consequences if approached with a negative attitude.



"He aboriginally imbued his quest for poignancy and significance." Emotive language used such as "A free spirit captured the heart of all Australians" impacts on the reader who genuinely feel they are involved in his transformation from "a little black girl".

In ~~class~~ conclusion, my understanding of the consequences of change have been shaped by & the techniques of Sally Morgan in My Place, As well as the related texts - "Stut's Dreaming", "Changes", Raudience and an article on Cathy Freeman. Change is an unavoidable forces ~~to~~ which makes us reflect upon who we are and what our place is in the world, ~~inspired, and~~ by accepting the consequences of ~~of~~ deliberate actions and unexpected happenings.