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ESOL 482

Quotes

A Tale of Two Schools

1. ***While Anglo growers welcomed Chicano workers in their fields during times of economic prosperity, they shut them out of mainstream society.*** (Tale of Two Cities, n.d, p.1)

b. I find it interesting that we feel it is our right to only take and not give back. We want workers but weren’t willing to accommodate for their own needs, to give them an opportunity to rise above what they know. We didn’t want the Chicanos to rise above we wanted them to stay in the farms and work for us, but what makes humans believe they have the right to hold power over ones happiness. History repeats itself those who are seen as lower than others are held in that position by being trampled on by those in higher powers. This is not a history to be proud of but we see it repeated over and over.

1. ***The curriculum at the Mexican schools was designed as one district superintendent put it, “to help these children take their place in society.”*** (Tale of Two Cities, n.d,p.2)

b. There is a difference between going to school and getting an education. An education is meant to educate the mind and help you get ahead in life, give you prospects. We didn’t want the Chicano’s to have a good outlook on life or for them to think maybe I can get out of here and be more than a field worker. Instead of teaching kids about biology and geometry they were focusing boys on learning industrial skills, and girl’s domestic tasks. When your horizon isn’t broadened then there is no way for the kids’ dreams to wander and for them to become more than a field worker and a mother.

1. ***The fact that the Mendezes were fairly prosperous tenant farmers did not make them any more acceptable to the mainstream community.*** (Tale of Two Cities, n.d, p.2)

b. To put one more thorn in the side, even when the Mendezes were able to rise a little above some of the other field workers it didn’t help them get their kids an education. What does this teach the kids? Even if they can make a better life for themselves the only thing that really matters is the color of their skin.

1. ***“Segregation fosters antagonisms in the children and suggests inferiority among them where none exists.”***  (Tale of Two Schools, n.d, p.4)

b. When you are constantly being looked down on because of the way you look or talk it’s going to have an impact on your life. It’s a good way to put a chip on someone’s shoulder. When children have a chip on their shoulder it can make it really hard for teachers to break down those walls because they don’t believe anyone has their best interests in mind. Just because someone has a different skin color doesn’t mean they are any less of a person. Children already have a hard enough time with their own normal growing up anxieties, they don’t need adults pigeonholing them and making them feel inferior to their peers.

1. ***Like a pebble tossed into a pond, the legal victory sent ripples of change throughout the Southwest.*** (Tale of Two Schools, n.d, p.4)

b. I just liked this picture of one determined person deciding to make a change. It doesn’t take a big powerful person or a lot of people to make a change it takes someone who cares and knows they are right. We need to stand up for what we know is right and not just let others run all over us. I’m thankful for those who are willing to stand up for what is right. It wasn’t just that she got a victory for herself but she created an opportunity for others to decide that they could stand up for themselves and make a change.