

Global Literature

Daniel Ingoldsby

Prof. Stubbs

23/02/2023

The Girl Who Married the Bear

Catherine McClellan, Maria Johns, & Dora Austin Wedge

The Girl Who Married the Bear, written by Catherine McClellan, Maria Johns, and Dora Austin Wedge, is a story that reflects the traditions and culture of the Tlingit people of Alaska. The story follows a young woman who marries a bear, and while there are many elements of the story that are interesting, I want to focus on the symbolism of the bear and its significance.

The bear is a powerful and important symbol in many cultures, and in this story, it represents strength, protection, and wisdom. The bear is also seen as a connection between humans and the natural world, and it is revered as a spirit animal. The fact that the young woman marries the bear shows her willingness to connect with nature and to embrace the power and wisdom of the natural world.

The story also shows the importance of respecting nature and the balance of the natural world. The young woman is warned not to disrespect the bear, and when she does, she is punished. This punishment shows the consequences of not respecting the balance of nature and the importance of understanding the power and wisdom of the natural world.

Furthermore, the story can be interpreted as a lesson in trust and faith. The young woman is warned not to look at the bear in its true form, but she cannot resist the temptation. Her curiosity leads to her downfall, but ultimately, she is saved by her faith and trust in the bear. This lesson can be applied to real-world situations, where trust and faith can be difficult to maintain, but ultimately lead to positive outcomes.

In conclusion, The Girl Who Married the Bear is a powerful story that reflects the traditions and culture of the Tlingit people of Alaska. The symbolism of the bear is significant and represents strength, protection, and wisdom, as well as the importance of respecting nature and the balance of the natural world. The story can be interpreted as a lesson in trust and faith, and its message is universally applicable to real-world situations.
