

Bryan Medina

Proff Subs

Global literature

3/4/2023

*What is loyalty?*

What is Loyalty? Is it Love? Is it communication? In the Book, "*The Girl Who Married the Bear*", is about a young adult girl who meets this guy who promised her to take her home, but instead he kept her with him and made her fall in love. Throughout their time together the girl would leave signs to her brothers so they could be able to find her. On her journey with the guy she finds out that he is a bear, so when the brothers got close she begged the bear to not kill her brothers, so instead the bear confronted her brothers and let the brothers kill him. The girl stayed loyal to her brother and did not let the bear kill her brothers. As time went by she ended up becoming a bear herself, and when her own brothers tried to kill her she ended up killing her brother and her own mother. So my question is what is loyalty? I feel like loyalty when you stay true to someone, protect someone from being harmed, look out for someone even if they don't see you doing it. Similar texts such as, "The Epic of Gilgamesh", "The tale of two Brothers", "Coyote Master of Death True to Life", also show in a way what loyalty is about.

In the book "*The Girl Who Married the Bear*" there is loyalty involved between the characters. The girl stayed loyal to her brothers but in the end to protect her family she ended up killing her brothers. She stayed loyal to her own family who were her kids. In page 124 the last couple of paragraphs it states, "they kept telling her to play. Then the boys sneaked up. They threw hides over her and the little ones. Then she walked off on four legs, and she shook herself just like a bear. It just happened. She was a grizzly bear. She couldn't do anything. She had to fight the arrows. She killed them all off, even her

mother. But she didn't kill her youngest brother, not him. She couldn't help it. Tears were running down her face. Then she went on her own. She had her two little cubs with her". In this stand of the book it shows her loyalty. She protected her own cubs from being killed, she got in the way of the arrow. Even though she killed her brothers, she did not kill her youngest brothers, this shows her loyalty to her brothers and it shows how despite that they all wanted to kill her she did not kill her younger brother out of loyalty. Also in page 123 in the second paragraph it states, " she pleaded with him: "Please don't fight! If you wanted me, why did you get this far? Just think of the kids. Dont hurt my brothers". In this paragraph it shows how she begged the bear not to kill her brothers. She protected her brothers because she knew that the bear was capable of killing them. In the book, "*The Girl Who Married the Bear*", show how loyalty was played out and how the girl at all times despite the situation she was in she stayed loyal to the people love and even so she was betrayed by her own brother she still stayed because she did not kill all of them but spare her younger brother life.

In the book, "*The Epic of Gilgamesh*", shows loyalty in many different ways. The book is about a goddess/king who was named Gilgamesh and he was tough, good looking, and had it all. Until he had someone similar like him named Enkidu. Enkidu was born in the forest, he was loyal to the animals and the animals were loyal to him, until one day this woman seduced him into committing lust. Enkidu never committed a sin, so when he did what he did with this woman he saw the world in a different way and so the animals who were loyal to him did not see Enkidu the same so they stopped being loyal to Enkidu. Enkidu had a mission it was to fight Gilgamesh and kill him. When the time came Enkidu went to confront Gilgamesh, they both fought and Gilgamesh won. Despite them fighting, they ended up becoming close friends. Throughout the book, both Enkidu and Gilgamesh had each other back and were loyal to each other. They processed each other, gave each other advice, and looked out for each other to where no one else could harm either of them. In book 2 the last paragraph, it state, " Gilgamesh, raging, stepped up and seize him, huge arms gripped dhuge arsm s, forehead crashed like wild bulls, the two men staggered, they pitched against houses, the doorpost trembled, the outer walls shook, they careened through the streets, they grappled each toer, limbs intertwined, each huge body straining to break free

from the other embrace. Finally, Gilgamesh threw the wild man and with his right knee pinned him to the ground. His manager left him. He turned away. Your mother, the goddess Ninsun made you stronger and braver than mortal, and rightly has Enlil granted you the kingship, since you are destined to rule over men.” They embraced and kissed. They held hands like brothers. They walked side by side. They became true friends”. In this paragraph it shows how loyalty is played out in an unusual way. Usually when you fight someone they become enemies for life, or want a rematch or revenge, but as you can see Gilgamesh and Enkidu both fought and instead of becoming enemies they became close friends. This kind of loyalty you don't usually see because it is hard for people to get past that but Gilgamesh and Enkidu did. In book 3, it states, “ Enkidu sighed. His eyes filled with tears. Gilgamesh said, “Why are you sighing? Why, dear friends, do your eyes fill with tears?” Enkidu answered, “ Dear friends, a scream sticks in my throat, my arms limp. I knew that country when I roamed the hills with the antelope and deer. The forest is endless, it spreads far and wide for thousands miles. What man would dare to penetrate its depths?. Enkidu said, “But how can any man dare to enter the Cedar Forest? It is sacred to Enlil. Hasn't declared its entrance forbidden, hasn't he put Humbaba there to terrify men? We must not go on this journey, we must not fight this creature”. In this part of text Gilgamesh wants to go into a forest to fight this creature who rules the forest named Humbaba. Enkidu gives Gilgamesh advice and tell him not to go because they could die trying to fight Humbaba because the forest is Humbaba land and Humbaba is protected by the forest and by a spirit. In this case Enkidu is showing his loyalty to Gilgamesh by not letting Gilgamesh go fight Humbaba and protecting him from harm.

In the book “*The Tale Of Two Brothers*” the way loyalty is shown is also in a different way, not a way we are used to seeing loyalty. The book is about two brothers named, Anubis and Bata. Anubis was the older brother and Bata was the younger brother. Bata lived with his older brother, his older brother had a wife. So one afternoon While Anubis and Bata were working on the field together, Bata went home to get some seed but when he was in the house Anubis wife tried to cheat on Anubis with Bata, but Bata refuses and leaves. Anubis wife was upset so when Anubis comes home she made it seem like Bata tried to do something to her and cause she did not let him Bata hit her. So Anubis believe his wife and did not

even ask his younger brother so out of anger Anubis went to kill Bata. Bata was told that his older brother wanted to kill him so he ran, and was able to escape from Anubis. In page 5 it states, “ and she seized him, and she said to him, “ come, let us spend an hour lying down. It will be beneficial for you. YThen I will make beautiful clothes for you”. Then the young man became angry like an upper Egyptian leopard because of the evil woad which she said to him, and she was very frightened. And then he spoke with her saying, “ Now see, you are like a mother to me. Further, your husband is like a father to me. Now the one older than I, he has raised me. What is the great wrong which you said to me? Do not say it to me again. further I will not speak to anyone, and I will not cause it to go forth my mouth to any people”. This shows how Bata is loyal in different ways. Bata did not lay down with his older brother wife out of loyalty to his brother and for respect for his brother. Also Bata decided to stay quiet about the situation to not cause a bigger problem and to not hurt his older brother from his cheating wife. Bata stayed loyal to his brother during temptation and protected his brother from being hurt. Also in page 7/8 it states, “coming to kill me wrongfully, carrying your spear on the word of a filthy whore”, and he brought a red knife and he cut off his phallus, and he threw it on the water, and the wels fish swallowed it, and he was weak and became feeble”. This shows how his younger brother shows loyalty to his older brother by not just saying that his wife was the one who tried to seize him but by cutting off his phallus to show his brother that he is innocent. If a person tries to kill you, most people would seek revenge and not try to prove a point but Bata went and showed his brother he was not lying and even put his own life at risk to prove to his brother that he is innocent.

The book, “Coyote Master of Death True to Life”, shows loyalty even after death. The book is about a character named Coyote who had a daughter who ended up passing away. After his daughter died she ended up following her into the afterlife. In stand 65, it states, “ His daughter said, “You cant follow me now. It is another kind of country where I am going”. Coyote said, “ Its no matter that I got myself. Now then he made a rope. Five days he made a rope. “All right then, lets go!”. This shows how Coyote is loyal to his daughter because he followed his daughter to the afterlife even though it was a dangerous journey he still decided to go. In real life when we lose someone we tend to bury them and try to move on but

Coyote with the loyalty he had decided to put his life at risk and go with his daughter to the afterlife without looking back.

In conclusion these texts show loyalty in many different ways. I feel like loyalty drives from a person who cares for the other, protects the other and wants to cause no harm to the other. In these texts I read there was always one character who protected the other, or a character that did stuff out of loyalty from the other. I feel like loyalty plays a big role in our feelings and I believe that loyalty is being there for someone, protecting, giving advice, and not letting that person get harmed.

Worked Cited page

Mitchell Stephen, "*The Epic of Gilgamesh*", New York London Toronto Sydney New Delhi

Hollis Tower Susan, "*The Tale of Two Brothers*", University of Oklahoma Press, 1990

Mcclellan Catherine, Johns Maria and Wedge Auston Dora, "*The Girl who married The bear*"

Hymes Dell, "*Coyote Master of Death True to life*"