

Response to text essay

In the novel *The Silent One*, written by Joy Cowley, the character of Aesake changes due to decisions and key events that impact the way he sees the world. **Through the interactions of his fellow villagers with Jonasi**, and their reactions to the hurricane and the shark attack, Aesake is forced to examine his own beliefs and attitude about his life in the village, and the way his friend Jonasi is treated. **(This is the introduction I wrote in the powtoon video)**

- **Through the interactions of his fellow villagers with Jonasi**, **(This is the paragraph one signpost from the introduction)**

The story begins with three adolescent boys, Aesake, the chief's son, Samu, Luisa's born son and Jonasi, a foundling raised by Luisa, transitioning from childhood to membership of the adult community of the village. **(Topic sentence)** As children, they have shared many of the same opportunities and experiences, but as young men, the expectations and attitudes of the other villagers towards them change. **(Explain sentence)** This is first seen during the pig hunt, where Aesake and Samu are invited to take part, but Jonasi is excluded due to his difference from the tribe. He is a deaf mute though he does not realise that others can sense things he cannot - he thinks he is different because he doesn't "know the meaning of the mouth movements" pg 9. Aesake has been educated at a Mission School off island, and has knowledge of deafness, he understands that Jonasi is not a demon, or someone to fear. Aesake begins to confront the assumptions and prejudices of the villagers, speaking out in Jonasi's defense "There is a reason for everything father..... They all have ordinary explanations" (pg 96). **(Example sentences)** Aesake's growing awareness of the superstition and fear of the villagers changes the way he interacts with Jonasi, he becomes a protector, working alongside Luisa and the chief to keep Jonasi safe. He also steps up to a leadership role within the village, taking on tasks for his father and suggesting solutions to the problems. His growth from young boy to manhood is demonstrated by these actions. Having Jonasi confront the assumptions and prejudices of the villagers allows the reader insight into the changes of character Aesake experiences. At the start of the story he wanted to fit in with the villagers, partaking in the pig hunt and joining the other young men in their usual routines and pursuits,

however as the story progresses he begins to stand up against the other villagers beliefs and prejudices, fulfilling a leadership role. His friendship and support of Jonasi is the catalyst for this change in demeanour. (Analysis sentences) Conflict or rebellion against the status quo and group mindset leads to the change from a callow youth to a young leader ready to take his place amongst his elders and lead his village into the future. (Summary sentence)

Take care not to retell the story – your focus is on the point you want to make. Please do not include what I have written in blue in your essays – it is there to help you see the elements of the paragraph!