

# Hunt for the Wilderpeople

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**Government  
Institutions Are  
Dehumanizing.**



# The meaning

Government institutions such as juvenile detention, foster care placement are dehumanizing in the sense that the fundamental values of life are ripped away through viewing one as different and unworthy. This can be because of prejudice and because of this, a 'victim' emerges. At a young age, one may experience low self esteem and other unwanted problems. These can all lead to undesired outcomes.

Dehumanizing can be done through subjecting certain groups of people to certain conditions. Prejudice is a major factor in the dehumanizing of people

# How the theme has been shown in the film

During this film the theme that 'government institutions are dehumanizing' was shown by the attitude and the way officers talked to Ricky at the beginning of the film. The officers were essentially controlling him. Another example is, at the near end of the film when Ricky and Hec gets captured, Paula puts her arms around him not letting Ricky move, again he has no choice and he is being Paula's 'puppet'.

# Visual & verbal techniques used

- Alien sound at the beginning of the film while ricky is on the way to the house in police car - represents alienation from the world
- Montage of his crimes, examples of the effects of the institutions on him
- Chiaroscuro lighting partered which a centered medium shot, face to face with his new foster parents, him against the institution in a dark place.
- His hat blocks out the light, his face is dark, he is dehumanized, lost his true personality
- Further sci-fi, alien music while he is running away, unlit, fully dark.

# Translation into the real world

There are many examples of this theme which linger throughout the real world.

**An estimated 1 in 20 people in NZ will commit a crime and make themselves known to police before the age of 14. Boys are twice as likely to commit crime than girls. 40% of the youths that are in juvenile prison do come back to juvenile prison multiple times. This shows that the NZ youth system is doing its job but not in the right way.**

The juvenile system as shown in the film took away Ricky's personality, even though it didn't take long for Bella to break the ice, it is hard to imagine what other juvenile delinquents have to go through.

There are always causes behind kids committing crime, however, law enforcement most likely disregards a lot of this which can only lower confidence and belief in being able to make a change in themselves.

# Understanding of the Real World

Understanding and accepting the different reasons, backgrounds people come from is an important lesson in the modern day. Having the ability to empathise and not just 'see' is key to creating an environment for people to change. To build confidence and equality is what is needed in these types of institutions [Juvenile system].

As stated in the prior slide, 40% of offenders return to juvenile multiple times. This highlights the unreliability of the juvenile system to promote the right path of rejuvenation.