

Young people flourish with healthy relationships

By: Kaitlyn, Mika, Jasleen and Syna

State each
theme/key idea
as a generalised
“that” statement

Young people flourish with healthy
relationships

Explain how each theme/key idea is shown in the text

The theme of 'Young people flourish with healthy relationships' is portrayed in many ways throughout the movie 'Hunt For the Wilderpeople'. Ricky Baker is a juvenile delinquent from a child protection agency. He is first portrayed as being a bad egg as he has a history of vandalism and arsonism. As the movie progresses he begins to build a bond with his foster family, the Faulkners. Ricky has a healthy relationship with Bella from the start. Bella and Ricky develop a Mother-son like relationship with the first few minutes, whereas with Hec it takes a while for Ricky to establish a healthy relationship. Hec and Ricky's relationship starts to bloom after spending several weeks together in a forest. Ricky becomes more comfortable around Hec and starts to call him Uncle. Because of the way he was treated by Hec and Bella Ricky positively flourishes in a way many foster children are unable to. Ricky flourishes in a sense that he leaves the life of being a bad egg behind and embraces the new one he has with Bella and Hec.

Use examples from the text as evidence to support each explanation young people flourish with healthy relationships.

How young people flourish with healthy relationships is shown in many ways in the text. One of the main characters Ricky Baker is a foster child who hasn't really had a healthy relationship before. An example of how this was shown was when Ricky formed a good relationship with Bella, during his birthday celebration. We could see the happy vibe between Ricky and Bella.

Another relationship that did start of edges was Ricky and Hector's relationship. At the birthday party Hec was displayed in shadows displaying his brooding mood. That showed that he didn't care about Ricky's birthday. Towards the end of the film Hector is displayed in warm light, showing that he was giving his and Ricky's relationship a try.

Ricky talking about Amber in an admiring way is another example o a healthy relationship. Ricky talked about his best mate Amber. He had a good relationship with Amber, but she died and no explanation was given to Ricky of how she died.

Therefore having a good relationship helps young people flourish. In this case Ricky flourished with healthy relationships. He started to become more open towards others and tried to see things in a positive light.

Analyse which verbal and visual techniques demonstrate and highlight this theme

A visual technique that demonstrates the theme “young people flourish with healthy relationships” is costume. During the beginning of the film Ricky wore a red jacket with jeans and white sneakers out on a farm however, as the film progresses he is seen replacing his shoes with boots and we see him in more suitable clothing. This type of clothing is called swanndri, a range of popular New Zealand outdoor clothing. This demonstrates the theme because without Hectors help Ricky wouldn't have matured enough to change out of his “cool” clothes. Without this maturity he would have remained a “bad egg” and most likely would have gone to juvenile prison.

Analyse how well each theme/key idea helps us to understand about real life

‘Young people flourish with healthy relationships.’ This theme is shown again and again throughout the film, linking it to Ricky and his relationships with other characters in the text.

During the film, we learn how Ricky has negative feelings towards foster care and social workers, especially Paula.