

Topic Sentence.

The short story, Yellow Brick Road by Witi Ihimaera is about the journey of a young boy, Matiu as he and his family travel to Wellington.

Explaining

In the text, Matiu's journey is filled with obstacles. He is constantly having to face prejudices that other people have formed about the Maori community. In his journey he grows as an individual – from an innocent young boy to a jaded “maori.”

Example

In the story Matiu and his father bear the brunt of other racist standards. Most people they meet display the belief that the Maori should stay in their little villages and leave the main cities alone. He is told “You Maoris are all the same. Dumb bloody horis.” Matiu has never encountered such level of malice and it is directed towards him and he does not even know the reason for it. He constantly wonders “why they don't stop...” to help them when their car breaks down.

Analysis

Individuals are constantly having to face such prejudiced ideas. NZ is fast growing to be a melting pot of many cultures. In my class alone there are people from all the parts of the world. There is an apparent level of understanding of each other but more subtly the suspicion still lives. When it comes to our parents they are quick to declare they are not racists or prejudiced. However, if you told them that your “Samoan” friend was coming home, they are most likely to lock away all expensive gear. They would advise you to be careful. Isn't this just as prejudiced as what Matiu faced?

Summing up

Racism is no longer as blatant as the days of apartheid. It is now more subtle but just as dangerous. Gone are KKK but this has been replaced by geographical boundaries. The rich are safe in their homes while the poor toil away in misery.