



Do other people encourage or prevent the individual's experience of new worlds?

Welcome. The topic for today is "into the world" and will be based on the film "Billy Elliot" by Stephen Daldry. Daldry effectively presents both views of this discussion. Billy Elliot is a young determined boy who dreams of being a ballet dancer. It is difficult for him to achieve this as there are many challenges and obstacles in his way during the time of the 1980's. He is from a working class family and is experiencing financial difficulties due to the miners strike in which his father and brother are involved. To be a ballet dancer is against the stereotypes of the time and male dancers are considered homosexual if they don't do sports such as wrestling, boxing or football. Billy's father tries to prevent his experience of new worlds.

Stephen Daldry uses many techniques to display



his views on being one's self. For example, camera angles are used flicking from Billy to his father after he is confronted about his ballet lessons he had been taking in secret. From this technique we can see that there is a great deal of conflict and tension between the two and they both have differing ideas and ~~opinions~~ ^{opinions} due to the generation gap. Billy's father states, "Lads to wrestling, boxing or football... not ballet". This shows that he has been brought up in a male dominated working class heritage which has stereotypical views. Their facial expressions show Billy's determination and his father's resentment because he wants to feel pride in his son's achievements.

There is another key scene in the film where Billy dances straight into a wall. The wall acts as a metaphor for everything and everyone in his life that is holding him back from ~~even~~ accomplishing

his dream to be a ballet dancer. It is a barrier that ~~separates~~ encloses society's views and expectations of conformity. It is something that Billy needs to commit himself to to break the social norms. His dancing inside a toilet cubicle also demonstrates the barriers and symbolise the expectations of society and most of all his father.

This relates to the novel "Looking For Alibrandi,"
Melinda
by ~~thangaret~~ Mercedes. A young girl trapped withing the expectations of her traditional Italian family dreams to break free from her social conformity and live her life the way she wants to without being judged by her grandmother.

The scene in "Billy Elliot" that is crucial to the meaning of the film is the end scene. We can finally see that Billy's father is proud that he



is doing something in his life that he loves and is very encouraging of him when he shows up at Billy's performance of "Swan Lake". The music is slow at first then speeds up and gets louder making us realise that something is about to happen. As Billy takes a great leap onto the stage it seems like he is flying like a bird which he mentions earlier on in the film. We can see that he is no longer a boy, but a man able to make his own choices and decisions in life. He has finally challenged the stereotypical expectations of society.

It is evident from the texts "Billy Elliot" by Stephen Daldry and "Looking for Alibrandi" by Melinda Marchetta that when it comes to the experience of new worlds other people most often prevent this experience and then encourage it. We come to realise that determination, courage and commitment are key characteristics that need to be considered



when it comes to achieving a dream. "Billy Elliot"
effectively communicates this idea.