

Good Morning Ladies + Gentlemen

"The encouragement or prevention of an individual's experience of new worlds by the others around them is always framed by the social context in which they exist. The process of moving away from the past and entering a new world is a complex one that involves sacrifice, change and a sense of the unknown. The protagonist can be both willing and forced to make their transition into the world as can be both prevented and encouraged by those around them.

Today, I will speak of "Into the World" through Willy Russell's two handed play "Educating Rita" which explores growth and change as Rita must face a change in knowledge, attitude and beliefs towards society. Rita's change links the play to the film "What Women Want" by Nancy Meyers, through the protagonist Nick Marshall, a middle aged advertising agent who develops his perception of women and strengthens his relationship with his daughter. It is this relationship that links the film ~~to~~ to the novel "Looking for Alibrandi" as the main protagonist Jessie goes through a change in lifestyle and a change in attitude towards her



family and culture.

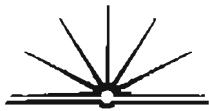
You may be asking yourself: why I have chosen these texts?

What is it that these texts have in common?

The answer is that all three of these texts show that other people both encourage and prevent the individual's experience of new worlds. Through their ~~or~~ relations with other characters they are able to grow, learn and change as they make their transition into the world.

In 'Educating Rita', Rita's first phase of transformation involves challenging social norms and realising her selfworth. Early in the play Rita shows dissatisfaction with her present life "I wanna discover myself first" this line shows that Rita wishes to pursue growth and change as she makes her transition into an educated woman. Rita sees education, which is symbolised through Frank as a vehicle by which she can move into the world.

Rita's attitude towards her present life is similar to Jessie from "Looking for Alibrandi" as the novel begins on National Italian



day. Jessie's view towards this world is negative which is highlighted through Marchetta's use of isolation, as reader and not she takes no part in the national traditions of the day. Her knowledge, attitude and beliefs towards her family and culture prevent her from experiencing new worlds.

This is a contrasted view to the character Nick from "What women want" as Nick loves the world he currently lives in. He does not treat women with much respect, yet has no trouble finding a date and is content in living this way. Nick's change is accidental as he ~~is~~ electrocutes himself in the bath tub, allowing him to hear women's thoughts. Nick uses his gift to allow others to encourage him to experience a new world. Similarly to Jessie + Rita, Nick is both willing and forced to make his transition 'into the world'.

Initially Rita struggles with her transition as she faces adversity from others around her preventing her from change, the difficulty is symbolised by the stage direction of Rita struggling with the door handle of Frank's study.

At first, Nick opposes to Ais change as he tries to electrocute himself again, this doesn't work. Nick's opposition to change is directly parallel to Danny's act of burning Rita's "chicken books" as Danny represents Rita's past and its reluctance to her change, trying to prevent her from experiencing new worlds. In contrast Frank represents the new world. Her admiration is conveyed through the dialogue "I wish I could talk like that".

Frank is a symbol of encouragement for Rita, but even Frank displays prevention in her experience into the new world.

A juxtaposition of language is used to show how different the two characters are and highlights Frank's encouragement and prevention of Rita's transition into the world. It creates comedy and shows how far Rita must come in her transformation. Frank's study window acts as a metaphorical physical and emotional barrier that separates Rita from the proper students, preventing her from change.

Does it get easier for the individuals on their transition into a new world? Yes, the ease at which Rita finally moves through Frank's study door allows the audience to



measure how far she has come, the window is no longer a barrier, which is shown through Rita's act of sitting with the students on the grass.

Rita goes through her final transformation in the last few scenes of Act II, as she realises the Education officer's discovery and enlightenments and that she learns of the endless opportunities education has to offer.

~~Rita~~ But, what have the protagonist learned about themselves and the others around them?

Rita becomes thankful of Frank as she acknowledges his encouragement, ~~and~~ prevention, and role as a teacher in her experience of new world, which is conveyed by the dialogue "because of what you've given me I've had a choice" this line shows that Rita now has freedom of choice as a result of Frank's influence, the repetition of "I might go ~~to France~~, I might go to France, I might even have a baby" reinforces this.



Rita's acknowledgement of Frank can be linked to Nick beginning to ~~see~~ respect and care for women without it feeling mandatory, because of the influence of women and his daughter who encourages him to experience a new world. Meyer uses a close up shot, to show emotion as if Nick, revives, strengthens ~~and~~ his relationship with his daughter Alex. Nick's relationship with his daughter is similar to the way Jaisie embraces her family and culture as by the end of the novel she realises "I'm loved by the two strongest women I'll ever meet in a life time" which reinforces others people's encouragement of entering new worlds.

Additionally moving from one world to another affects the individuals relationships with others both positively to negatively because of their encouragement and prevention.
Thank you.