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EFP 12

Mrs. Fitton

April 14th, 2021

### Riveting Resilience

Blurred vision. Bloodied body. Broken heart. Does this not sound the alarms of tragedy and devastation? Immense adversity is faced daily and endured bravely in these two powerful stories. In the riveting and dark novel *Bone Black*, written by Carol GoldenEagle, Wren embarks on a journey of trauma, grief, and healing after losing her sister. Throughout the heart wrenching film "The Grizzlies", directed by Miranda De Pencier, students and community members numb their agony with drugs and alcohol until the formation of a lacrosse team inspires hope, purpose, and family. In the two works, unimaginable pain and loss is combated with incredible resilience by showing admirable tenacity, creating a vision, and building a sense of family.

→ great intro and summary of the two texts

really strong thesis!

Unfortunately, shame and anguish fuel abuse. After Wren was sexually abused by her volleyball coach - someone she trusted - she was impregnated and disgusted. She self-aborted her own baby by beating herself despite that it went against her culture and beliefs. But she kept going. Going to school, living her life, and in the end married to a lovely man. Much like Wren, the teenagers in the film were abused, but by their own flesh and blood - their family members. In spite of the physical and verbal toxicity Miranda was surviving in, she went to school everyday, and tried her hardest, which allowed her to hold on to herself. Just when Wren's life seemed to reach peace, she had a miscarriage. Her shame was so deep that she couldn't even tell her husband, but she carried on. Zach's struggle was the opposite. His parents were chained to a life of alcoholism - making it seem like they had been lost too. Zach did what he could to live in

a world with no parental guidance. Worst of all, Wren lost her twin sister, her best friend, and her closest confidant. Wren was a wreck but went on. Not only was one family affected one time by suicide in Kugluktug, but they've "been dealing with this stuff for years and [they] are still here" (DePencier 2018). How do you live through watching young valuable lives disappear one by one? Everyone in the community simply had to. → closing comment here on the relationship in both stories between tenacity and resilience ✓

On the contrary, purpose and vision for the future drove each person to stay ~~alive~~. In Wren's case, her purpose was to avenge her sister and dispose of evil, racist, and sexist men by killing them. Like Wren chased after wrongdoers, the students chased after fitness and skill to become good at lacrosse. They had something else to do "instead of fighting, drinking, or killing ourselves, we play" (DePencier 2018) and they each had a purpose. Wren's goal, however, was to "take the pain and anguish that [Billy] caused and turn it into something to help others" (Goldeneagle 132). She took the evil men and turned them into beautiful pottery to be used and cherished by good people. As for the students, they had to do something very difficult to keep their team. They had to attend school, and for the first time they wanted to and they tried because they were guided by their ultimate goal of keeping their team. Just like they wanted to keep their team intact, Wren wanted to keep her marriage intact with Lord. They were drifting apart, but Wren refused to give up her marriage and the one family member she had left. As for the team, they were being annihilated by other lacrosse teams at the nationals, and were very discouraged. After Russ told them they should just have fun, they decided that they had to score one goal for Zach, to honour him. And they did just that. They prevailed through all of their failures and scored that goal for Zach. They lived and tried their very best, for Zach. → closing comment ✓

In the same way, a sense of family was what guided everyone. Kohkum's stories, and teachings comforted Wren in times of despair and confusion. She relied on the animals and the

little people Kohkum taught of to guide her missions. Russ was no Grandpa, but he was there to guide the students in a similar way. He guided them to love sports and away from alcohol. After losing so much family, there was a new baby in Wren's life and she "[used] the time during the baby's growth to try and heal her own heart and always, to remember the bond she had with Raven" (Goldeneagle 201). Despite the painful loss of family, Wren found healing in the memories of family and creation of new members. Lastly, the entire community of Kugluktuk became family in the end when Adam's Grandma - who was vehemently against lacrosse - supported the team at the allocation of funds meeting and ultimately got the committee to give the funds to the team.

In the end, these people lived through extreme agony and indomitable situations that they made through. In the two works *Bone Black* and "The Grizzlies", people fought tooth and nail to remain alive and themselves in the face of overwhelming pain and struggle. Though done in very different ways, each person somehow finds resilience through showing admirable perseverance, finding purpose, and creating a sense of family. Pain and loss is inevitable, but surviving and being the best version of oneself despite it all, is where true resilience comes to light.

### good

- strong ideas and clearly focused on thesis
- strong connections and infused with really powerful meaning

### work on

- body paragraphs pack the most punch when you wrap them up with one sentence that connects your examples to the overall thesis & main idea → they strengthen arguments and it's the part that makes people go "Ooohhhh"
- body paragraph organization → I appreciate the consistency, but the ideas might have been more impactful if the subjects stayed together (all Grizzlies examples from the paragraph, then all BB examples → but that's just a maybe!  
→ your structure works, it's

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English first people's

Wednesday April 4th

// = new paragraph

- great start

## Resilience

Resilience is not about overcoming, but becoming. "I am not what happened to me, I am what I chose to become". In the novel "Bone Black" written by Carol Rose Goldeneagle, and the movie "The Grizzlies" directed by Miranda de Pencier, there is much pain and suffering, but resilience is shown throughout both stories. In the Novel "Bone Black" Wren is a Middle aged Cree woman who loses her first child to a miscarriage, and later her twin sister Raven goes missing. Without any help from the law in finding her sister, Wren looks for answers, and suffers with the heartaches from the past and tribulations of being an indigenous woman. In the movie "The Grizzlies" Russ Shepard, has taken a job as a teacher in Kugluktuk Nunavut, an Inuit community. He soon realizes how serious the pain and suffering these indigenous people face is, with high levels of suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, and little attendance in his classroom. Russ wants to be the saving grace of this community, and give his students something to strive for. He starts a school lacrosse team, and not only teaches the sport, but healthier habits in their everyday life. He gives the hurting and broken community new hope. I am going to compare and go into detail with the similarities shown between the novel and the movie. Where resilience is shown, how it's shown, and why it was important.

Firstly, resilience was shown in "Bone Black" when Wren has a miscarriage. I believe this is closely correlated to when one of the students in "The Grizzlies" Zack is taken into custody for stealing, and later commits suicide in his jail cell. I believe these are closely correlated because losing a child, losing a friend, a brother, whatever the case may be is so unbelievably painful, almost paralyzing pain. In both these examples there is much strength and resilience shown. Wren mourns for a while, and it takes time to fully heal, but she shows resilience through finding her own ways of healing. She spends time with her twin Raven, and goes to the land to ask for healing. In many indigenous cultures the land is thought of a place of healing. If you make an offering to the land, it is believed to give you back strength, and relieve you of your emotional or physical pains. Resilience is shown in the Grizzlies in this example when the team decides not to give up, sure they lost a teammate, but it brought them closer as a group. They decide to quit would be selfish, and it would strengthen them to keep playing in Zacks memory. Losing friends, or family is a painful experience, but it's in these times we have the choice to stay down, and give up, or live on, and keep that special person close to the place they will never leave our hearts. "I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it". (quote)

very meaningful  
\* in the future, you trust it's strongest when it's one strong sentence

- great comparison

Furthermore, another example of resilience shared between "Bone Black" and "The Grizzlies" is when Wren fights for help, or answers from police about her missing sister, and when Russ

clear explanation of ideas

fighters the community for extra funds to help him take the team to lacrosse nationals in Toronto. Although Wren doesn't end up with what she was looking for, her resilience to stand up and not only make her point about finding her missing sister clear, but how terrible and racist the RCMP is about missing indigenous women is outstanding. This closely relates to the example in "The Grizzlies" because Russ also fights to make his point clear, he states that lacrosse has given these kids something to look forward to, and the classroom attendance because of this team is outstanding. Whether it's fighting for your rights and standing up for family, or trying to give your students and team new opportunities, we must show our resilience in order to make our points clear, and not let the difficulties or tribulations ahead stop us from our goal.

clear explanation of similarities → this is analysis well done!

Lastly, resilience can be shown in both "Bone Black" and "The Grizzlies" when Wren tells the story of her Grandma's (Kohkum) sister Dodi who went through much trauma while forced to attend residential school as a child, and when Kyle tells Russ about his dad being abusive because of the same trauma from residential school Dodi faced. Wren shows her resilience by being able to open up, and tell the story of her Grandma's sister. It's not easy to open up about traumatic experiences even when it was another family member who faced them. Kyle shows his resilience in the same way as Wren by explaining to Russ his dad's pain, and that he feels bad, and even though he is being abused, wants to help his father. Often when we see angered or sad people we are too quick to judge, but when people can show resilience and open up it shows so much strength and gives great understanding into why we must first know what a person is really going through before we judge. "Out of suffering we have emerged the strongest souls, the most massive characters are seared with scars". (quote & cite)

In conclusion both these stories give great examples of how much resilience indigenous peoples have. Through trial and tribulation they continue to come out stronger. They have "learned to live with the world beyond their borders", and taught me that "what lies before us, and lies ahead, is nothing compared to what lies within us".

strong conclusion

good

• Alan! This is a really strong paper! you have meaningful ideas, an appropriate and serious tone, and you were sure to clearly explain your ideas and connections.

- great stuff!  
- you are a natural writer!

work on

- your thesis could be stronger  
↳ remember <sup>(idea about the topics)</sup> topic + your position + 3 supporting details that influenced your position
- quotes need to be cited afterwards with  
(Last name, year) → movie  
of director
- (Last name, page #) → book  
of author

Seerat Sanghera

Mrs Fitton

English First Peoples 12

April 14 2021

### Resilience

Resiliency is the ability to keep pushing through whatever life throws your way. It is about overcoming ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> grief, tragedy of losing people and conquering traumatic life events. In 'The Grizzlies' directed by Miranda De Pencier and 'Bone Black' a novel written by Carol Rose GoldenEagle the plot demonstrates the protagonists' ability to recover and heal through troubling situations to become unshakeable, tenacious and peaceful after their struggles.

great inclusion of literary terms to back up your ideas

good thesis

the future was specific & possible with to add at it's in unavut

To begin, The Grizzlies is focused on Russ Shephard <sup>who</sup> moves to the northern community of Kugluktuk. He detects the hardships many of the students face daily such as abusive relationships, alcohol abuse, and drug addictions, as well as suicide. In order to give the children an outlet to focus their mind on something else Russ decides on starting a lacrosse team. Many of the kids such as Spring and Kyle are dealing with an awfully abusive person in their lives. Spring was hit by her boyfriend Roger who lovingly called her "My sun, my moon, my stars" (De Pencier, 2018). Despite that, they seemed so infatuated with one another. After losing Spring due to his violence, he sadly took his own life leaving a note written, "No sun, no moon, no stars" (De Pencier, 2018). Kyle was another student who lived in an physically abusive household with an alcoholic father and found himself homeless.

good overview of challenges faced

In order to save these kids from their troubles, Shephard's idea to create a lacrosse team and give the students a place to focus their energy on and created a family. It ended up being a fantastic collaboration where they felt supported and safe. Unfortunately, a player decided to ~~take~~ commit suicide after getting in trouble with the law right as the team were to head off to a tournament in Toronto. By

being together as a community and team and simply going through the tragedy of losing a close friend, family member and comrade they decide to play in his honour. It shows how courageous the kids are by being able to bounce back from that grief. They showed perseverance despite the odds against them. In a group huddle Shephard expresses how he loves the team and that they are his family. Just before the ending credits, it is shown what each one of them is doing years later in their life, Lacrosse gave Kyle a goal and purpose, and he still plays to this day. Miranda helped aid the alcohol crisis in Kugluktuk and make things better and Spring is married with two beautiful children of her own.

✓ nice use of this part of the film!  
✓ to a final comment here on the power of resilience would wrap this up nicely

Similarly, in Bone Black, Wren Strongeagle suffers many traumatic experiences such as a miscarriage and losing her twin sister. In the book it goes back to when Wren was raped in high school and raped in college and still, she continued to be herself and shine love and light onto others in her life. ✓ Wren underwent a tragic miscarriage that broke her spirit, but with the help of her twin sister Raven she was able to pick herself back up and take care of her soul. One evening, Wren and Raven go out for a night on the town and Raven goes missing without a trace. "Wren [had] never truly been alone, that's the reality of being a twin" (GoldenEagle, 75), and therefore her heart was absolutely shattered. With police doing nothing in the search to find Raven, Wren turns to her spiritual side for healing. Majority of her coping came from seeking vengeance on people by killing, but she saw it as "justice [being] served and [their] dark filth wiped clean" (GoldenEagle, 151). Wren was also in touch with her spiritual side and her way of healing was seeking guidance from the spirit world, by prayer, being in nature and honouring her losses. (After all that she was finally able to find her composure and become the person she was before but exceedingly stronger and resilient.) - good closing line

- good integration of quotes

All in all, each of the characters were able to display their courage. With encouragement from the people around them the kids in the Grizzlies became each other's support. As well as Wren's spiritual beliefs and support from her husband strengthened her resiliency. The ability to bounce back was shown in a spectacular way. It helped each person hold on to their identity, cope with their losses and become incredibly strong willed.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><u>good</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• great organization of ideas</li><li>• strong thesis and clear examples - quotes are integrated well</li></ul> | <p><u>work on</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to really clarify your ideas, you can practice adding a closing line to paragraphs that refer back to the thesis</li><li>• sometimes saying your idea in a new way can help to clarify → This demonstrates...</li></ul> |
|--|---|

Taylor Anweiler

Mrs. Fitton & Savoie

English FP 12

April 14, 2021

### Adversity

Being resilient while facing adversity can be a struggle that not everyone can survive. In the movie *The Grizzlies* by Miranda DePencier and the novel *Bone Black* by Carol Rose Goldeneagle, all of the main characters demonstrate how <sup>they</sup> ~~to~~ cope with their daily struggles. *The Grizzlies* is about the struggles of living in Nunavut while surrounded by loss, while *Bone Black* is about a girl named Wren whose ~~se~~ sister goes missing. In both stories they exhibit resilience while facing loss and trauma, they do this by showing persistence, optimism and asking for help when needed.

While facing loss, persistence with old passions may fall through the cracks. During both stories, they learn how to regain persistence and determination in their lives after becoming discouraged. For example, in *The Grizzlies* the kids teacher had to force them to show up to school. He also made them start playing on the lacrosse team. This is important because when their friend took his own life they had a team to fall back on and rely on for support. It is clear that the team they made was actually their new family. This ensured that they could help each other cope instead of creating more loss. They now knew that “No matter what, [to] keep on trying, [and] keep on hoping for better things (DePencier 2018).” However, in *Bone Black*, Wren’s favourite hobby was to create pottery. After her sister went missing she abandoned her



arts and crafts because she had forgotten how happy it made her. A while after, she felt she needed a way to cope. She did this by volunteering to teach a kids pottery class every week. This helped Wren feel as if she had a purpose, to help the vulnerable children. Teaching the class caused her to start making her own pottery once again as she made “an image in [her sister’s] honour [to] tell the story of strength (Goldeneagle, 112).” These similarities demonstrate that being persistent with a hobby and with friends and family can help with any loss or trauma.

good succinct explanation of connection

Staying positive through everyday issues can be a struggle for anyone. Although it is hard both Wren and the lacrosse team managed to stay optimistic throughout their time of mourning. During the movie, the lacrosse team was passionate about going to Toronto for a tournament. Unfortunately, they did not raise enough money to be able to go. This is when they reached out to the city council and asked them to pay for the remainder of the trip. In the beginning the council said no but eventually they changed their minds when one of the kids' grandparents spoke up because they saw how optimistic the kids were about going. Being optimistic was the reason they were granted the money to leave because “yes tradition is important but we must adapt or we will die (DePencier 2018).” In contrast, in the novel, Wren felt optimistic about finding her sister and did not want to give up. Everyone in the town was helping to look for her which gave Wren reassurance. However, after a while she began to give up, she wanted “to believe that everything will turn out well but her hope was faltering (Goldeneagle, 76).” On the other hand, Wren had been killing people. They were only people who had done bad things but in Wren’s head she was optimistic she was doing the right thing. All together, optimism can pay off in the end but it doesn't always work out for everyone.

this idea is interesting, might be stronger with just another sentence or two of explanation

interesting connection  
explain a bit more for the bigger impact

Everyone needs help occasionally, especially while facing the loss of a friend or family member. In *The Grizzlies* and *Bone Black* they receive help when it was most needed, even if they didn't want it. For example, in the movie the lacrosse team was very passionate about going to the tournament in Toronto. The team had practiced very hard and attempted to raise as much money as possible. Unfortunately, they did not reach their goal. When this happened they knew they needed to reach out and ask for help. They all attended the city council meeting to ask for funds to be able to go. <sup>this transition is for something opposite, but it feels sort of more similar</sup> On the other hand, after the loss of their friends they reached out to each other for support. <sup>because...</sup> This shows how important it is to know when to ask for help. In a similar way, when Wren's sister Raven went missing she reached out to the neighbors and the people of the city to help look. She also reached out to her husband because "Lords return home is comforting, signalling a return to cherish present moments (Goldeneagle, 154)." Wren's husband coming home to help her grief was helpful because she knew she always had someone to support her. Asking for help is significant in both stories because without it they would have not made it to where they are now in life. ✓

A parallel can be drawn between *The Grizzlies* and *Bone Black* because both stories are outstanding examples of resilience in times of trauma. They demonstrated how to stay strong by being persistent, optimistic, and asking for help. It is important to know how to cope because "When we learn how to become resilient, we learn how to embrace the beautifully broad spectrum of the human experience (Jaeda Dewalt)."

good

- really strong organization of ideas
- solid thesis and connection to main idea throughout

↳ life source where this came from

work on

- some examples would be clearer and more impactful with a bit more explanation.
- some more diversity in the examples you use would make a more balanced argument (ie - asking council for trip money used more than once)