

## 2.1 Response to *The Rabbits* (My Response)



What does *The Rabbits* reveal about the Essential Question: "*Why is it important to be responsible to others on a personal, local, global, or digital level?*"

## Tehya's Response to *The Rabbits*:



*"Why is it important to be responsible to others on a personal, local, global and digital level?"*

*I think this topic is one that is controversial for our nation right now. There have been occasions in Canadian history when the Europeans came and took over the land from the Native Americans who lived there, and we are still dealing with those decisions and repercussions to this day. The whole debate and argument over Residential schools and the treatment of First Nations people by the Whites is something that touches home for me, too. My Kokum and Moosum (grandma and grandpa) both have resentment towards the education system because they were both taken from home and sent to a residential school where their culture and way of life was stripped and they were punished for speaking their Native tongue, Cree. The Rabbits really speaks to me and my family. School is not always a priority because of my Kokum and Moosum's background: the system failed them so if I didn't want to go to school, they didn't force the issue. I think if I were one of the original residents of the land in The Rabbits, I might have a similar attitude. If my culture was punished out of me, I would be confused and angry and wouldn't care if my children or grandchildren followed the rules of the outsiders who came and overtook everything. If my culture weren't being respected, then why would I respect theirs? I think that we have a responsibility to be respectful of others and not expect people to become like us, but expect that people are different and that's okay.*

*Any person who is new to a community has the responsibility of learning that place's culture and customs. But learning about them doesn't mean you have to incorporate them as your own, it just means that you are respectful of those around you. I am constantly getting e mails about how immigrants to Canada want us to change the culture in our schools: no religion, no holidays, no whatever. And the e mails are always encouraging me to take a stand against this. I find it exhausting, really, and would like to think that I am more open-minded than that. I think that if immigrants to Canada are coming here because it is safer, then that's great. But, I also think it's their responsibility to be respectful of the Canadian culture. We are not asking immigrants to become Christian or either French or English speaking: we are respectful of the immigrants' religion and language and culture. We don't try to force them to become Canadian. And, I think, that should be a standard practice regardless if you are coming into a country or a community. Learn the rules and culture of that place, and be respectful of it. Don't try and force others to be like you but work within the parameters of your own culture and the new community.*

## My Response to Tehya:

## Mohammed's Response to *The Rabbits*:



*"Why is it important to be responsible to others on a personal, local, global and digital level?"*

*I found this text to be quite different compared to The Arrival, which I studied in English 20-1. Tan's images are enthralling and detailed, and everytime I look at the text, I find something new that I am in awe about! The images are overflowing with subconscious messages that impact the overall message of the text, and the idea that we need to be responsible to others on a personal, local, global, and digital level. In my opinion, the rabbits who invaded the others' land were not very responsible in that respect. In terms of the images Tan used, the golden picture frame seems to represent this idea of a used car salesman. The rabbits are trying to convince the others to buy into this new community and culture and are putting all this glitz and glam on it to butter them up – and the others do buy it. And then, in the pages that follow, we realize that it was just a sham . . . the reader is just as drawn into the scam as the others, and we feel such hurt, pain, and confusion at being bamboozled! When I went back and looked through the text again, I scolded myself: I mean, look at the pictures with the rabbits – all their edges are hard. Their backs are stiff and straight, their ears fold straight back or straight up and down. Even their buildings and transportation is straight-edged. This tells me that they are very rigid in their thinking and unweilding in how they will treat the others. In contrast, the others are drawn with curves: their bodies are rounded, their homes are hill-caves, which are rounded. Their weapons, while straight, are basic and straightforward, as the others are. They are trusting and open, as round shapes suggest open-ness and boxy shapes suggest closed-ness.*

## My Response to Mohammed: