"Your Dissecting Judgment Doesn't Hurt Me as Much as My Own"

Samantha Rivera

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Stories not only define American Indians by the role they play in the storytelling process—as shown through Fools Crow’s maturation and name changing—but stories actually create a world where American Indians can experience their traditions and connect with other tribal members and people outside their tribe.

Welch himself acts as the character who shares a part of himself and his culture with his readers by introducing his audience to the life of a Blackfeet in 1870. Since the majority of his audience probably identifies themselves with mainstream culture, Welch shares the past of his people, the Blackfeet, with outsiders. He provides his readers with a detailed description of ceremonial events like the Sun Dance, incorporates elements of stick games. Shorty accepted us into his culture, even if it was just for that night, but now we must reciprocate. We must pass his story, our new story, onto others; we must continue the tradition.

we come as just a group of white college kids who hid from one another on campus, nearly touching shoulders as we passed by, too busy texting on our cell phones and listening to our iPods. always looking down as we went, avoiding conversation, interaction, adopting avoidance out of fear of our differences, even though we all look and act the same. cultured to rush, to ignore.

we left as just some white kids, the same white kids, yet transformed by friendship. we try to understand, are learning to understand our story, and how our story intertwines with others. others who trust us, open their arms, others who trust us, open their arms, who hid from one another on campus, nearly touching shoulders as we passed by, too busy texting on our cell phones and listening to our iPods. always looking down as we went, avoiding conversation, interaction, adopting avoidance out of fear of our differences, even though we all look and act the same. cultured to rush, to ignore.