

Arturo Leon Jr.

Humanities ⅓

1-20-15

Pride Stabs in the Back

People have tendencies to hurt the ones they love with their own pride. A short story named “The Scarlet Ibis”, written by James Hurst, shows how the narrator is embarrassed of his disabled brother and tries to teach him how to walk and pushes him to be normal. The narrator then realizes that Doodle is perfect the way he is, but loses Doodle because he is being controlled by his pride. The author teaches readers to love someone the way they are instead of trying to change them.

The narrator tries to change his brother Doodle to be a normal kid. For example, the narrator goes everyday to the Old Women Swamp and puts Doodle on his feet so Doodle can try to walk, but he can't and the narrator said, “Doodle don't you want to learn how to walk?”(Hurst, page 3). The narrator's expectations for Doodle are way too high and aren't considerate to Doodle's problems. The narrator pushes Doodle to his requirements and Doodle wants to make his brother happy. In addition, when the narrator realizes he uses Doodle as a lab rat, but was too late, “He had been bleeding from the mouth, and his neck and the front of his shirt were stained a brilliant red.”(Hurst, Page 6). Doodle was not able to

catch up to his brother making him fall and not able to get up. The narrator learns that it isn't bad to be different from everyone else, but the only way he could find out was when Doodle was bleeding in front of him. Changing someone is not helping them, it is helping only the person to look good in front of everyone else.

Making Doodle change is hurting him and the death of Doodle affected the narrator the most. For example, when Doodle fell, his brother kept on going, because he expects Doodle to get up: on the floor Doodle said, "Brother, Brother, don't leave me! Don't leave me!"(Hurst, page 3). This shows that Doodle doesn't like to be left alone. This also shows that Doodle was a puppet to his brother and the narrator realizes it this when Doodle dies.. In addition, the narrator only loves him because he wants something to be proud of and to have pride in himself, the narrator said, "But all of us must have something or someone to be proud of, and Doodle had become mine. I did not know then that pride is a wonderful, terrible thing, a seed that bears two vines, life and death." (Hurst, page 3). This shows the narrators pride is more important than Doodle's health. This also shows that the narrator doesn't care about what Doodle thinks, he just follows the command of the narrator. The narrator realizes that he could of spent more time and fun with Doodle, than trying to change him.

The author teaches readers that being different is never a bad thing. The narrator has a brother name Doodle and he is trying to make a plan to make him a normal kid. So the narrator started with walking, but for Doodle, it was hard just to put him on his feet. Doodle try everyday and while it was hurting him but he didn't show it, his body was tired and Doodle die because he

couldn't get up in a storm. People think changing someone is helping them but it is only helping themselves look good and feel happy.