

Identities are made up of who you are, by taking in many different factors. Your race, culture, size, all play into forming your identity. Our main character is a boy named Tom Canty, who lived a very harsh and cruel life. He's unloved, mistreated, and life isn't going great for him. However, along with Tom, a Prince was born in London and they were the SAME AGE. You can see where this is going...

One day, Tom wanders outside of town, where he encounters the esteemed Prince Edward. Upon arrival, a soldier spots him and drags him away. Edward notices and calls off the soldier. They meet, talk for a bit, and Edward invites him into the palace. They're curious about each other's lifestyle and exchange clothes. It was Tom's time to shine. Almost identical to the pauper, the prince gets thrown out of the palace, and Tom is now left inside. While Tom attends a fancy meal, Edward tries to escape the clutches of Tom's father. News breaks out that Henry VIII has passed away, and all of a sudden Tom is now the King of England. While Tom has to learn how to become a King very abruptly, Edward returns to England. On the day of the ceremony, right as they're about to place the crown on Tom's head, Edward steps up and once and for all claims he is king. Tom confirms his claim, and after being tested, Edward gains his seat on the throne. He grants Tom the role of King's Ward, and his family (excluding his dad) are granted lifetime care. Edward rules with more care, after experiencing what the harshness of commoners is truly like.

In the Breadwinner, we meet an 11 year old girl named Parvana. The Taliban have set up many restrictions and unfair laws for girls and women. Burqas were required if they ever needed to step outside, Women could not go out alone, they must be accompanied by a man, the list goes on. Parvana has to help him get to the market, as he can't walk on his own. Since none of the girls are allowed to go to school or have even some form of education, they spend most of their time helping around the house. One night, Father begins to tell a story, however their curiosity quickly turns to distress and horror as Taliban soldiers burst in and seize Father, who apparently is under arrest. You can practically feel the horror they must've gone through, so Parvana is a trooper for sure. Parvana fills in for Father, and time passes. Until one day, a "Tea-Boy" happens to stumble upon her shop, and accidentally spills some tea. It turns out that that Tea boy was her classmate Shauzia, another girl posing as a boy, in order to survive. Eventually,

the day of Nooria's wedding comes. However, in order to not miss her father if he comes back that day, Parvana decides to stay behind. Parvana's Father returns home, very weak and fatigued, and they comfort him. Parvana learns of Shauzia's plan to move to France, and leave her hometown, and the book ends with them planning to reunite, 20 year later.

Parvana's Identity: As we read in the book, gender plays a massive role in Kabul. If you're a male, you have the rights a standard American citizen would have. However, if you're a female, your privileges are limited to few, and are constantly being mistreated. Being treated that way can definitely affect your thoughts and mindset, by starting to believe that you are in fact inferior to males. Parvana's traits based on her choices are courageousness, an upstander, and inspiring. You can tell she's a determined individual, but a caring one nonetheless.

Tom's Identity: Similar to Parvana, he knows what it's like to be born into misfortune. While constantly being harassed at home, they were constantly struggling for money. The way you're treated definitely impacts your identity, as it can make you permanently sad or angry, leaving you with constant pain. Tom pulled through, and even managed to live a good life after all that mistreatment. Tom's traits in my opinion are honesty (he didn't have to give back the throne), determination, and perseverance.

Connecting the two:

Tom's identity is similar to Parvana's identity, as they both went through hardships, and both pulled through, and even had a happy ending (or for as far as we know). They both were born into misfortune, and both had some rough times at home, and were both struggling, and were just mistreated by society.

Connecting myself to these two stories:

Connecting myself to these two would be hard, as I understand how lucky I am to be able to afford stuff like the internet, a good school, and even electricity! However I do know what it's like to be teased or mocked, as I am a rather small individual, and I do not find that to be a bad thing! Identity is the fact of who you are, and having the ability to block out people who tease you is a gift. I believe

that perseverance is a form of identity, and if you can persevere through all those mean comments, you can do just about anything! But that doesn't change how some people think it's valid to tease others for being "different" or "having accommodations and more chances just because we need more help", and I can relate to that as well.

What I got out of this:

What I got out of this is (and I kind of already knew this) is just because you're different, doesn't mean something wrong with you; with every grey cloud, there's a silver lining; don't let other people mock you for who you are; and live up to your fullest potential, regardless of what others think of you. Changing your identity, you shouldn't have to do. If you want to change your identity, that's different. However, if someone is forcing you to change your identity, I don't believe that should ever happen. Both Parvana and Edward got glimpses of the other side, where Parvana experienced what it's like to be a boy, and Edward got to see the poverty side of things. I believe that they now understand how easy it is for your entire life to change, and you should make the most out of the situation, or try and change it if it's unjust.