

ceremony by leslie marmon silko

ceremony by leslie marmon silko is a seminal work of Native American literature that explores themes of identity, healing, and cultural continuity. This novel, written by Leslie Marmon Silko, a Laguna Pueblo writer, delves into the life of Tayo, a mixed-race World War II veteran struggling to reconcile his traumatic past with his Native heritage. Through a richly woven narrative, the book addresses the significance of ceremony, storytelling, and connection to the land in the restoration of balance and harmony. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the novel's plot, themes, and cultural context while emphasizing the importance of ceremony in Silko's storytelling. Readers will gain an understanding of how **ceremony by leslie marmon silko** contributes to Native American literature and its broader implications for healing and identity. The following sections will cover the plot overview, major themes, symbolism, cultural significance, and critical reception of this influential work.

- Plot Overview of Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko
- Major Themes in Ceremony
- Symbolism and Literary Devices
- Cultural Significance and Native American Context
- Critical Reception and Legacy

Plot Overview of Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko

The narrative of **ceremony by leslie marmon silko** follows Tayo, a half-Pueblo, half-white man who returns home after fighting in World War II. Traumatized by his war experiences and suffering from survivor's guilt, Tayo's mental and emotional state deteriorates. The story chronicles his journey toward healing, which is deeply intertwined with the traditional ceremonies and stories of his Laguna Pueblo community. The plot is non-linear, blending past and present events, and incorporates myths and legends that are vital to the novel's structure and meaning.

Tayo's Struggle and Return

Upon returning from war, Tayo is alienated from both the white and Native communities. His mixed heritage complicates his identity, and he faces prejudice and misunderstanding. His struggle with post-traumatic stress

disorder manifests through hallucinations, despair, and a sense of disconnection from his roots. His family's land, which has been damaged by commercial interests, symbolizes the broader cultural and environmental disruption experienced by Native people.

Role of Ceremony in the Plot

Ceremonies performed by Tayo's elders and medicine men are central to the narrative. These rituals are depicted as processes of spiritual and communal restoration. Through participation in these ceremonies, Tayo reconnects with his heritage and begins to heal. The novel portrays ceremony not just as ritualistic acts but as living practices that sustain cultural identity and promote harmony between humans and nature.

Major Themes in Ceremony

Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko explores several profound themes that resonate throughout the novel. These themes include identity and belonging, healing and trauma, the power of storytelling, and the relationship between humans and the natural world. Each theme contributes to the novel's message about the importance of cultural preservation and spiritual renewal.

Identity and Belonging

The protagonist's mixed heritage is a focal point for examining issues of identity. Tayo's journey reflects the challenges of navigating multiple cultural worlds and the search for a sense of belonging. The novel underscores the significance of embracing one's cultural roots to achieve wholeness.

Healing and Trauma

War trauma and its psychological effects are central to Tayo's character development. The novel illustrates how traditional ceremonies and connection to community serve as mechanisms for healing. Silko emphasizes that recovery is a holistic process involving mind, body, and spirit.

The Power of Storytelling

Storytelling is presented as a vital means of preserving history, transmitting knowledge, and forging identity. The novel itself integrates traditional Laguna Pueblo stories and myths, highlighting storytelling's role in cultural continuity and personal transformation.

Humans and Nature

Environmental themes are woven throughout the narrative. The novel critiques the exploitation of land and advocates for a respectful, reciprocal relationship between humans and the natural world. Ceremony is depicted as a way to restore balance within this relationship.

Symbolism and Literary Devices

Leslie Marmon Silko employs a rich array of symbols and literary techniques in **ceremony by leslie marmon silko** to deepen the novel's impact. These elements include the use of nonlinear narrative, myth incorporation, and symbolism drawn from nature and indigenous culture.

Nonlinear Narrative Structure

The novel's structure reflects the cyclical nature of time and healing, blending memories, myths, and present events. This approach challenges Western linear storytelling conventions and aligns with Native American perspectives on time and history.

Myth and Legend Integration

Traditional Laguna Pueblo myths are interspersed throughout the story, serving both as narrative devices and thematic reinforcements. These legends provide context and insight into Tayo's journey and the broader cultural worldview.

Natural Symbols

Elements such as the land, animals, and weather are imbued with symbolic significance. For example, the mountain and the rain are linked to renewal and cleansing, while damaged land represents cultural disruption and loss.

- The mountain symbolizes spiritual connection and strength.
- The rain signifies cleansing and restoration.
- Animals, like the mountain lion and deer, represent guidance and ancestral presence.
- Damaged land reflects cultural and environmental trauma.

Cultural Significance and Native American Context

Ceremony by **Leslie Marmon Silko** holds a vital place in Native American literature, offering an authentic representation of Laguna Pueblo culture and philosophy. The novel contributes to the broader movement of indigenous literary voices reclaiming narrative authority and cultural pride.

Representation of Laguna Pueblo Culture

Silko, drawing from her own heritage, presents Laguna Pueblo traditions, values, and worldviews with respect and depth. The novel's emphasis on ceremony, storytelling, and harmony with nature provides readers with insight into indigenous ways of knowing and living.

Impact on Native American Literature

The book has influenced generations of Native writers and scholars by foregrounding indigenous perspectives and challenging mainstream literary norms. Its success helped to elevate Native American literature within academic and popular contexts.

Promotion of Cultural Healing

The novel advocates for healing not only on an individual level but also within communities and the environment. It encourages recognition of historical traumas and the revitalization of cultural practices as pathways to resilience and survival.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Since its publication, **ceremony** by **leslie marmon silko** has garnered critical acclaim for its literary innovation and cultural significance. Scholars and critics have praised its complex narrative style, rich symbolism, and profound engagement with Native American issues.

Academic Recognition

The novel is frequently studied in courses on Native American literature, American literature, and postcolonial studies. It is regarded as a foundational text that challenges conventional narratives and introduces indigenous epistemologies into the literary canon.

Influence on Contemporary Writers

Silko's work has inspired many contemporary Native authors who explore themes of identity, trauma, and cultural survival. The novel's integration of ceremony and storytelling continues to serve as a model for blending traditional and modern literary forms.

Continued Relevance

Decades after its release, **ceremony by leslie marmon silko** remains relevant in discussions of cultural healing, environmental ethics, and indigenous rights. Its enduring legacy reflects its power to speak across generations and cultural boundaries.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'Ceremony' by Leslie Marmon Silko?

'Ceremony' explores themes of healing, identity, and the interconnectedness of people and nature, focusing on the protagonist Tayo's journey to recover from the trauma of World War II through traditional Native American ceremonies.

Who is the protagonist of 'Ceremony' and what challenges does he face?

The protagonist is Tayo, a mixed-race Laguna Pueblo man who struggles with PTSD from his experiences in World War II, as well as issues related to his cultural identity and belonging.

How does Leslie Marmon Silko incorporate Native American traditions in 'Ceremony'?

Silko weaves Laguna Pueblo myths, ceremonies, and oral storytelling into the narrative, using these cultural elements to guide Tayo's healing process and to emphasize the importance of tradition and community.

What role does nature play in the novel 'Ceremony'?

Nature is portrayed as a living, interconnected force essential to healing and balance. Tayo's recovery is closely linked to his relationship with the land, animals, and natural cycles.

How does 'Ceremony' address the impact of colonialism and war on Native American communities?

'Ceremony' highlights the lasting trauma and disruption caused by colonialism and war, showing how these forces have fractured Native identity, culture, and land, but also emphasizes resilience and restoration.

What is the significance of storytelling in 'Ceremony'?

Storytelling serves as a means of preserving culture, imparting wisdom, and facilitating healing. Silko uses stories within the novel to connect past and present, myth and reality.

How does Leslie Marmon Silko's writing style in 'Ceremony' reflect Native American oral traditions?

Silko employs a nonlinear narrative, blending myth, folklore, and personal experience, which mirrors the fluid and cyclical nature of Native American oral storytelling.

What message does 'Ceremony' convey about cultural identity and belonging?

'Ceremony' suggests that cultural identity is deeply tied to community, history, and the natural world, and that reclaiming and honoring these connections is vital for personal and collective healing.

Additional Resources

1. *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich

This novel follows a Native American boy named Joe as he seeks justice for his mother after a traumatic event disrupts their lives on the Ojibwe reservation. The story explores themes of identity, justice, and the complexities of tribal law. Much like *Ceremony*, it delves into the struggles faced by Native Americans in contemporary society while honoring traditional culture.

2. *Love Medicine* by Louise Erdrich

A multi-generational saga set on a North Dakota Ojibwe reservation, this book weaves together the lives of several interconnected families. It explores themes of love, loss, and cultural survival, highlighting the resilience of Native American identity. The narrative style, shifting perspectives, and deep connection to place echo the storytelling approach in *Ceremony*.

3. *House Made of Dawn* by N. Scott Momaday

This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel tells the story of Abel, a young Native

American man returning home from World War II, struggling to reconcile his heritage with modern life. The book combines poetic imagery with Native American myths and rituals, similar to Leslie Marmon Silko's integration of ceremony and storytelling. It's regarded as a foundational work of Native American literature.

4. *Tracks by Louise Erdrich*

Set on a North Dakota reservation in the early 20th century, **Tracks** explores cultural conflict through the eyes of Fleur Pillager, a strong-willed Ojibwe woman. The novel examines the impact of colonization and the resistance of indigenous traditions, paralleling the themes of healing and cultural reclamation found in **Ceremony**. Erdrich's lyrical prose offers a rich depiction of Native life.

5. *Winter in the Blood by James Welch*

This novel tells the story of a nameless Native American protagonist as he journeys through Montana, grappling with alienation and identity. It explores the psychological and spiritual struggles of Native Americans caught between traditional culture and modern society. The introspective narrative and themes of healing resonate with those in **Ceremony**.

6. *Shadow Mountain by Martin Cruz Smith*

Set in the American Southwest, this novel follows Native American characters dealing with issues of cultural survival and environmental change. The story incorporates elements of indigenous spirituality and ceremonies, reflecting the deep connection between land and identity found in Silko's work. It blends mystery and cultural insight in a compelling narrative.

7. *Yellow Woman and a Beauty of the Spirit by Leslie Marmon Silko*

This collection of essays and stories by Silko herself offers insight into Native American culture, storytelling, and spirituality. It complements **Ceremony** by providing a deeper understanding of the themes Silko explores in her fiction. The book addresses the importance of ceremony, tradition, and the resilience of indigenous peoples.

8. *Green Grass, Running Water by Thomas King*

A humorous and satirical novel that blends Native American oral traditions with contemporary storytelling. It challenges colonial narratives and celebrates indigenous identity through a complex, layered plot. Like **Ceremony**, it uses storytelling as a form of cultural ceremony and resistance.

9. *Mean Spirit by Linda Hogan*

Set in Oklahoma during the oil boom of the 1920s, this novel explores the exploitation of Native American land and people. Through the experiences of the Kiowa tribe, it highlights themes of resilience, cultural survival, and environmental respect. Hogan's vivid storytelling and focus on indigenous ceremonies draw parallels to Silko's **Ceremony**.

[Ceremony By Leslie Marmon Silko](#)

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ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony Allan Chavkin, 2002-01-24 Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*, the most important novel of the Native American Renaissance, is among the most most widely taught and studied novels in higher education today. In it, Silko recounts a young man's search for consolation in his tribe's history and traditions, and his resulting voyage of self-discovery and discovery of the world. The fourteen essays in this casebook include a variety of theoretical approaches and provide the reader with crucial information, especially on Native American beliefs, that will enhance their understanding and appreciation of this contemporary classic. The collection also includes two interviews with Silko in which she explains the importance of the oral tradition and storytelling, along with autobiographical basis of the novel.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: *Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony* Robert M. Nelson, 2008 Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*: The Recovery of Tradition is a study of the embedded texts that function as the formal and thematic backbone of Leslie Marmon Silko's 1977 novel. Robert M. Nelson identifies the Keresan and Navajo ethnographic pretexts that Silko reappropriates and analyzes the many ways these texts relate to the surrounding prose narrative.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: *Ceremony* Leslie Marmon Silko, 2024-03-12 A Penguin Vitae edition of the great Native American Novel of a battered veteran returning home to heal his mind and spirit, with a foreword by bestselling author Tommy Orange A Penguin Classic Hardcover More than 45 years after its original publication, *Ceremony* remains one of the most profound and moving works of Native American literature, a novel that is itself a ceremony of healing. Tayo, a World War II veteran of mixed ancestry, returns to the Laguna Pueblo Reservation. He is deeply scarred by his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese and further wounded by the rejection he encounters from his people. Only by immersing himself in the Indian past can he begin to regain the peace that was taken from him. Masterfully written, filled with the somber majesty of Pueblo myth, *Ceremony* is a work of enduring power

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony (ELL), , 2009

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Ceremony Leslie Marmon Silko, 2006-12-26 The great Native American Novel of a battered veteran returning home to heal his mind and spirit One of The Atlantic's Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years More than thirty-five years since its original publication, *Ceremony* remains one of the most profound and moving works of Native American literature, a novel that is itself a ceremony of healing. Tayo, a World War II veteran of mixed ancestry, returns to the Laguna Pueblo Reservation. He is deeply scarred by his experience as a prisoner of the Japanese and further wounded by the rejection he encounters from his people. Only by immersing himself in the Indian past can he begin to regain the peace that was taken from him. Masterfully written, filled with the somber majesty of Pueblo myth, *Ceremony* is a work of enduring power. The Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition contains a new preface by the author and an introduction by Larry McMurtry. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Living In-between: The Search for Identity in Leslie

Marmon Silko's Ceremony Ariane Peters, 2007-09 Seminar paper from the year 2003 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3 (A), Ernst Moritz Arndt University of Greifswald (Institute for Anglistics/American Studies), language: English, abstract: Although Leslie Marmon Silko's complete works have received exemplary reviews, *Ceremony* seems to be the most talked about and recognized for its literary achievement. One reason for this large attention is the strange narrative form due to the combination of the Indian storytelling, myth, poetry and a plot that takes place in a modern western¹ environment. Another reason for the remarkable success of this novel is Silko's way to show the negative repercussions on Native Americans caused by racism, alcoholism, dislocation, poverty as well as the industrial exploitation of the land. In this paper I will discuss one of the principal themes presented in Leslie Silko's *Ceremony*: the issue of Native American identity. In the first part I will briefly introduce the characters of Tayo and Rocky, two Native Americans who grew up on a reservation for the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico. After that I will examine the similarities between these two young men who both take part in the Second World War and make horrible experiences. In the main part of this paper I will try to find out the differences between Tayo and Rocky in order to explain their different ways of searching their own identity. Furthermore I will explore the sources of Tayo's selfdestructive behaviour and his problem of alienation. Therefore I will have to ponder on the following questions: How does the white culture influence these characters? Do both men suffer from the loss of Indian self-esteem? What are the effects of internalized racism and colonization on the health of Tayo? Why is Tayo able to return to the community to lead a stable and productive life? In the final comment there will be a concluding assessment and a summary of the theme.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Leslie Marmon Silko David L. Moore, 2016-09-22 A major American writer at the turn of this millennium, Leslie Marmon Silko has also been one of the most powerful voices in the flowering of Native American literature since the publication of her 1977 novel *Ceremony*. This guide, with chapters written by leading scholars of Native American literature, explores Silko's major novels *Ceremony*, *Almanac of the Dead*, and *Gardens in the Dunes* as an entryway into the full body of her work that includes poetry, essays, short fiction, film, photography, and other visual art. These chapters map Silko's place in the broad context of American literary history. Further, they trace her pivotal role in prompting other Indigenous writers to enter the conversations she helped to launch. Along the way, the book engages her historical themes of land, ethnicity, race, gender, trauma, and healing, while examining her narrative craft and her mythic lyricism.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Caught between two worlds. Identity in Leslie Marmon Silko's "Ceremony" Daniel Schroeder, 2014-11-24 Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 3,0, University of Rostock (Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik), course: Worldly and Imaginary Spaces in American Transcultural Literature, language: English, abstract: In our life everybody asks himself: Who am I? The answers to that question generate everyone's self-perception which will be always part of one's identity. The latter is one of the major themes appealing in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* and this seminar paper will focus on the two characters Tayo and Rocky. They show the problems occurring for persons that are "caught between two worlds". Tayo feels ashamed of himself because of his white ancestry. His cousin Rocky, on the other hand, is a full-blood Indian, but does everything to be a part of the "white world". Both are somehow caught in the middle because of living in-between. The first part of the paper will focus on demonstrating the development of these two major characters in *Ceremony*. It is an important section because "[in] essence, the individual's actions and character define his identity" (Jenlink & Townes 2009: 127). Therefore, to analyze Tayo's and Rocky's identity or search for it, one has to examine their life career and relations with other persons because "[...] a person's identity is [also] influenced by others recognition of that identity [...]" (Jenlink & Townes 2009: 127). This seminar paper will also focus on the similarities and distinctions between the two mentioned characters and the topic identity including the associated term hybridity, for example. The reasons for the accurate analysis of Tayo's and Rocky's

characteristics by comparison are their different philosophy of life and searching for identity. Living in a reservation unfolds a unique way of life which differs from the lifestyle of the White's. Therefore, it creates further hurdles for Tayo and Rocky, but "[this] search for identity [...] is a social as well as an individual problem. The kind of answers one gives to the question Who am I? depends in part upon how one answers the question What is this society? - and this world - in which we live" (Lynn 1999: 14)? One has to be able to define his position in the world. This is why this topic also represents a problem of today's people. There are still humans that are caught between two worlds because they are of mixed descent and were unsuccessful in the search for the sense of belonging. The reasons are sometimes the same like 50 years ago.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Storytelling in Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony

Berenice Walther, 2007-01-30 Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Münster (Englisches Seminar), course: Contemporary American and Canadian Fiction, language: English, abstract: Oral storytelling is a tradition inherent to all cultures. By definition, its genre is determined by its original oral transmission; many of the world's greatest literary classics such as *El Cid*, *La Chanson de Roland*, *Beowulf* or the *Odyssey* were originally orally transmitted. In most cases the author is unknown and the story has undergone many modifications in the course of the telling processes; still they are today's primary testimonies for language, history, culture and people of the past. In this paper, a definition of oral storytelling will be provided along with an introduction in order to define the subject matter as well as the significance of putting oral storytelling into writing as Silko did in *Ceremony*. Leslie Marmon Silko was brought up in the Laguna Pueblo community in New Mexico, a Native American tribe where storytelling plays an important cultural role. For Silko, the process of writing her novel *Ceremony* was not only a way of staying sane - as she states herself - but also to identify with her Native American origins. In this novel, she points out the opposition between the Native stories about reciprocity with nature and Euro-American stories of dominion. This confrontation is a conflict of two paradigms reflecting the protagonist's, Tayo's, inner state of mind; he has to reconstruct stories to reestablish an agreement with both cultures - for himself. The main focus will therefore be on the forms and functions of storytelling in the novel itself. Hereby, crucial aspects revolving around the cultural differences between Native American and Euro-American culture, the clash of cultures and both sides' impact on the individual will be in the center of discussion. The conclusion summarizes the paper's assessment of the results attained.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Oceanstory Leslie Marmon Silko, 2011-02-17 A new novella from the acclaimed author of *Ceremony*, and *Almanac of the Dead*. Leslie Marmon Silko is the author of the novels *Ceremony*, *Almanac of the Dead*, and *Gardens in the Dunes*. She has also written many short stories, poems and essays, and her most recent book is a memoir, *The Turquoise Ledge*. The recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and an NEA fellowship, Silko lives in Tucson, Arizona, on the boundary of Saguaro National Park West.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Storyteller Leslie Marmon Silko, 2012-09-25 A rich, many-faceted book. -- The New York Times A classic work of Native American literature by the bestselling author of *Ceremony* Leslie Marmon Silko's groundbreaking book *Storyteller*, first published in 1981, blends original short stories and poetry influenced by the traditional oral tales that she heard growing up on the Laguna Pueblo in New Mexico with autobiographical passages, folktales, family memories, and photographs. As she mixes traditional and Western literary genres, Silko examines themes of memory, alienation, power, and identity; communicates Native American notions regarding time, nature, and spirituality; and explores how stories and storytelling shape people and communities. *Storyteller* illustrates how one can frame collective cultural identity in contemporary literary forms, as well as illuminates the importance of myth, oral tradition, and ritual in Silko's own work. This edition includes a new introduction by Silko and previously unpublished photographs.

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ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Tradition and Renewal in Leslie Marmon Silko's

"Ceremony" Timo Dersch, 2011-02 Essay from the year 2011 in the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,5, University of Stuttgart, language: English, abstract: Leslie Marmon Silko, a Native American writer, grew up at the edge of the Laguna Pueblo Reservation, New Mexico, USA. Because of her mixed origins and for the fact that she was not living directly in the reservation and thereby in the pueblo society, she was not allowed to attend several rituals. Silko's roots are Native American, Anglo American and Mexican American but she was raised and educated by her grandmother and aunts with the traditional Laguna stories. This led to a strong identification of her with the native part of her ancestry and to her writing, which always deals with Native American topics. Her writing includes autobiographical parts and lots of relations to tradition which only a member of this particular native tribe could describe as precisely as she does. In *Ceremony*, her highly regarded 1977 novel, these traditional relations seem to play an important role. The following essay will show how the importance of tradition for the Native American communities is expressed in the novel, and how it is responsible for the healing of the main protagonists' illness.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: A Teacher's Guide to Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony

Rebekah A. Harvey, 1996

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: The Sacred Hoop Paula Gunn Allen, 2015-03-03

Almost thirty years after its initial publication, Paula Gunn Allen's celebrated study of women's roles in Native American culture, history, and traditions continues to influence writers and scholars in Native American studies, women's studies, queer studies, religion and spirituality, and beyond. This groundbreaking collection of seventeen essays investigates and celebrates Native American traditions, with special focus on the position of the American Indian woman within those customs. Divided into three sections, the book discusses literature and authors, history and historians, sovereignty and revolution, and social welfare and public policy, especially as those subjects interact with the topic of Native American women. Poet, academic, biographer, critic, activist, and novelist Paula Gunn Allen was a leader and trailblazer in the field of women's and Native American spirituality. Her work is both universal and deeply personal, examining heritage, anger, racism, homophobia, Eurocentrism, and the enduring spirit of the American Indian.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony Allan Chavkin, 2002

Along with Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine*, Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* is one of the two most widely taught and studied Native American literature texts. In *Ceremony* Silko recounts a young man's search for consolation in his tribe's history and traditions, and his resulting voyage of self-discovery and discovery of the world. This casebook includes a variety of theoretical approaches and provides readers with crucial information, especially on Native American beliefs, that will enhance their understanding and appreciation of this contemporary classic. This collection also includes two interviews with Leslie Marmon Silko in which she explains the importance of oral tradition and storytelling, along with the autobiographical basis of the novel.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Study Guide for Ceremony by Leslie Marmon Silko Janet L.

Jacobsen, 1986

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Marmon Silko's "Ceremony" Daniel Schroeder, 2014-12-02 Seminar paper from the year 2012 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 3,0, University of Rostock (Institut für Anglistik/Amerikanistik), course: Worldly and Imaginary Spaces in American Transcultural Literature, language: English, abstract: In our life everybody asks himself: Who am I? The answers to that question generate everyone's self-perception which will be always part of one's identity. The latter is one of the major themes appealing in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* and this seminar paper will focus on the two characters Tayo and Rocky. They show the problems occurring for persons that are caught between two worlds. Tayo feels ashamed of himself because of his white ancestry. His cousin Rocky, on the other hand, is a full-blood Indian, but does everything to be a part of the white world. Both are somehow caught in the middle because of living in-between. The first part of the paper will focus on demonstrating the development of these two major characters in

Ceremony. It is an important section because [in] essence, the individual's actions and character define his identity (Jenlink & Townes 2009: 127). Therefore, to analyze Tayo's and Rocky's identity or search for it, one has to examine their life career and relations with other persons because [...] a person's identity is [also] influenced by others recognition of that identity [...] (Jenlink & Townes 2009: 127). This seminar paper will also focus on the similarities and distinctions between the two mentioned characters and the topic identity including the associated term hybridity, for example. The reasons for the accurate analysis of Tayo's and Rocky's characteristics by comparison are their different philosophy of life and searching for identity. Living in a reservation unfolds a unique way of life which differs from the lifestyle of the White's. Therefore, it creates further hurdles for Tayo and Rocky, but [this] search for identity [...] is a social as we

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: Leslie Marmon Silko Louise K. Barnett, James L. Thorson, 1999 An exciting collection of new essays on the work of the outstanding American Indian woman writer.

ceremony by leslie marmon silko: The stolen land will eat their hearts - Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony from an environmentalist perspective Ole Wagner, 2007-06-06 Seminar paper from the year 2004 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,3, University of Heidelberg, language: English, abstract: Leslie Marmon Silko's novel Ceremony is not only about Native American culture, it is also about the environment and how different ethnical groups deal with it. Even though they do not intervene in the story's course, animals (except the cattle Tayo has to find), plants and last but not least the 'land' (as a term for all more or less 'dead' things in nature, like stones, e.g.) play a crucial role in this piece of fiction. This essay will take a look at the novel from an environmentalist perspective in order to show how nature is treated here by the humans and which effects are caused by this. It will also examine how this plays a role in Tayo's personal fate. In the case of Ceremony environmentalism is also humanism. Aboriginal peoples are very often connected with their land and everything in and on it in a way which is quite different from the European U.S. American way of living. Every harm done to 'their' land hurts them very much. This is also shown in Silko's novel and therefore will be taken as a theme in this essay. In a Native American culture as the Laguna Pueblo's reality, dream and belief often become mixed. Therefore it will sometimes be necessary here to go beyond the actual events and get involved in what could be called 'religion' (even though the focus will mostly be on what really 'happens'), speaking in Western terms. What is meant here are mainly the stories which are scattered throughout the book. These stories represent traditional Laguna beliefs (the stories themselves reproduced in Silko's literary modification) and offer a view on nature that is based on harmony and a peaceful living together. But first this essay will deal with the bad things committed towards the environment, because this way the contrast to the positive actions and interactions with nature that form the second part will be as sharp as it should be seen. As a last part will serve what can be considered the 'environmentalist boiling-point' of the book, the part in which the Native American ecocatastrophe is lifted on a global level.

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