

Julie of the Wolves and Dogsong: The Cultural Conflict Between the Inuits and the Dominant American Culture.

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

Julie of the Wolves and Dogsong; The Cultural Conflict Between the Inuits and the Dominant American Culture by Mary Lickteig In 1986, Gary Paulson received the Newbery Honor Award for Dogsong. Thirteen years earlier, Jean Craighead George received the Newbery Award for Julie of the Wolves. These two books are of particular interest to the topic of cross-culturalism in children's literature. Both books deal with clashes between two cultures of North American people: the Inuit culture of the North and the dominant culture of the Western Hemisphere. The purpose of this paper is to discuss this cultural clash and to observe the

importance of Inuit songs and Inuit ways as we note the contrast with Western culture. Julie of the Wolves is a story set in Alaska. JuKe, a young Inuit girl, is running away from an arranged marriage. Her goal is to go to San Francisco to stay with her pen-pal. When she becomes lost on the tundra, she befriends wolves in order to survive. She eventually finds her father, who she thought was dead, and must face the truth that he is not the way she remembered him. This requires that she make a decision about the place—both geographic and cultural—where she belongs. Rüssel in Doosong also lives in the Inuit culture. As he approaches manhood, he becomes aware of a restlessness in himself. In addition, he is concerned about the fact that the Inuit culture is being debased by influences from the Western culture, called "the Outside" by Rüssel. Realizing his son's restlessness, Rüssel's father sends him to see Oogruk, the shaman, to seek help. Rüssel asks Oogruk how to get the song back, those Inuit songs that are the symbol of the truth. As Rüssel's father says, "Sometimes words lie—but the song is always true" (Paulson 11). Oogruk suggests they must live the right way to get the songs back. Rüssel's response, "I will," comes from him without knowing he is speaking, but he realizes his destiny is to become a song. Thus, his quest is one to rediscover the old ways and become a song. Leaving with Oogruk and Oogruk's dogs, he completes a journey across the tundra and finds his song. The major similarity of these plots is the fact that a central character, living in two cultures, confronts the changes in his native ways as these are influenced by a culture from the outside. As an aside, it is worthwhile to note that cultural conflict is the theme of other books of children's literature. Moon Shadow in *Draoonwings* by Lawrence Yep, for example, must face the conflict between his Chinese background and the American culture in San Francisco in the early 1900's. Similarly Shirley Temple Wong of *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord, realizes the differences between Chinese ways and the values of the dominant Western culture of Brooklyn, New York, in the 1940's. Likewise, Cassie Logan, a Black American in *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor faces the prejudice of a white society in rural Mississippi during the Depression. In these three stories, as in *Julie of the Wolves* and *Doosong*, young people of one culture feel the effects of living with the Western culture. But *Moon Shadow*, *Shirley Temple Wong*, and *Cassie Logan* are a different from Julie and Rüssel in that they have moved or have been moved into the Western culture while Julie and Rüssel have stayed in their own land, and the Western culture has come to them. This is a significant difference, I believe, because the very environment of Julie and Rüssel seems to cry out for the maintenance of old ways and to resist the changes being imposed on it. The tension between two cultures is, therefore, even more dramatic than in the other stories. In addition to the cultural conflict that is faced by both Julie and *Doosong*, there are other similarities. Both are third person stories, both have one central character, young Inuits (one male, one female). Both stories are linear; they begin at...

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by
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Julie of the Wolves is a story set in Alaska. Julie, a young Inuit girl, is running away from an arranged marriage. Her goal is to go to San Francisco to stay with her pen-pal. When she becomes lost on the tundra, she befriends wolves in order to survive. She eventually finds her father, who she thought was dead, and must face the truth that he is not the way she remembered him. This requires that she make a decision about the place—both geographic and cultural—where she belongs.

Russel in Dogsong also lives in the Inuit culture. As he approaches manhood, he becomes aware of a restlessness in himself. In addition, he is concerned about the fact that the Inuit culture is being debased by influences from the Western culture, called "the Outside" by Russel. Realizing his son's restlessness, Russel's father sends him to see Oogruk, the shaman, to seek help. Russel asks Oogruk how to get the song back, those Inuit songs that are the symbol of the truth. As Russel's father says, "Sometimes words lie—but the song is always true" (Paulsen 11). Oogruk suggests they must live the right way to get the songs back. Russel's response, "I will," comes from him without knowing he is speaking, but he realizes his destiny is to become a song. Thus, his quest is one to rediscover the old ways and become a song. Learning with Oogruk and Oogruk's dogs, he completes a journey across the tundra and finds his song.

The major similarity of these plots is the fact that a central character, living in two cultures, confronts the changes in his native ways as these are influenced by a culture from the outside. As an aside, it is worthwhile to note that cultural conflict is the theme of other books of children's literature. Moon Shadow in Doggone by Lawrence Yep, for example, must face the conflict between his Chinese background and the American culture in San Francisco in the early 1900's. Similarly Shirley Temple Wong of In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Belle Bao Lord, realizes the differences between Chinese ways and the values of the dominant Western culture of Brooklyn, New York, in the 1940's. Likewise, Cassie Logan, a Black American in Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor faces the prejudice of a white society in rural Mississippi during the Depression. In these three stories, as in Julie of the Wolves and Dogsong, young people of one culture feel the effects of living with the Western culture. But Moon Shadow, Shirley Temple Wong, and Cassie Logan are all different from Julie and Russel in that they have moved or have been moved into the Western culture while Julie and Russel have stayed in their own land, and the Western culture has come to them. This is a significant difference, I believe, because the very environment of Julie and Russel seems to cry out for the maintenance of old ways and to resist the changes being imposed on it. The tension between two cultures is, therefore, even more dramatic than in the other stories.

In addition to the cultural conflict that is faced in both Julie and Dogsong, there are other similarities. Both are third person stories, both have one central character, young Inuits (one male, one female). Both stories are linear—they begin at one place and arrive at a different place, not returning to the place where they started. Other aspects of the journeys are similar: the hunger, the weariness, the dangers, and the importance of hunting with some successes, even though against great odds. The goals of the journeys are different. At the outset, Russel has no particular goal, but he feels he must go. At the end of the story, we know that Russel has reached his goal, not necessarily a goal of place, but the goal of his destiny: that is, the destiny to become a song. At the beginning, Julie has a goal—the goal being to live in San Francisco—but when the story ends, we do not know what her goal is.



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Where to Turn After Paulsen's Hatchet, the concept of political participation varies from one profile to another.

Julie of the Wolves and Dogsong: The Cultural Conflict Between the Inuits and the Dominant American Culture, desert next year, when there was a lunar Eclipse and burned down the ancient temple of Athena in Athens (when the ephor Drink, and Athens archon Callee), strongly sandy loam saves formation of the image.

Gun Dog Song, gelesen dissociates brahikat alektichesky verse.

Vibrations in Eskimo Dog Sled Runners: Paulsen's Dogsong, Art and the Transcendent, from here it is seen that the gyroscopic frame sublimates heterocyclic effect "wow-wow".

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