



The Education of Little Tree

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Land 110

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The Education of Little Tree

is a moving book that expresses many life lessons that the main character Little Tree learns in his few short years living with his grandparents. Little Tree's parents both died when he was at a very young age.

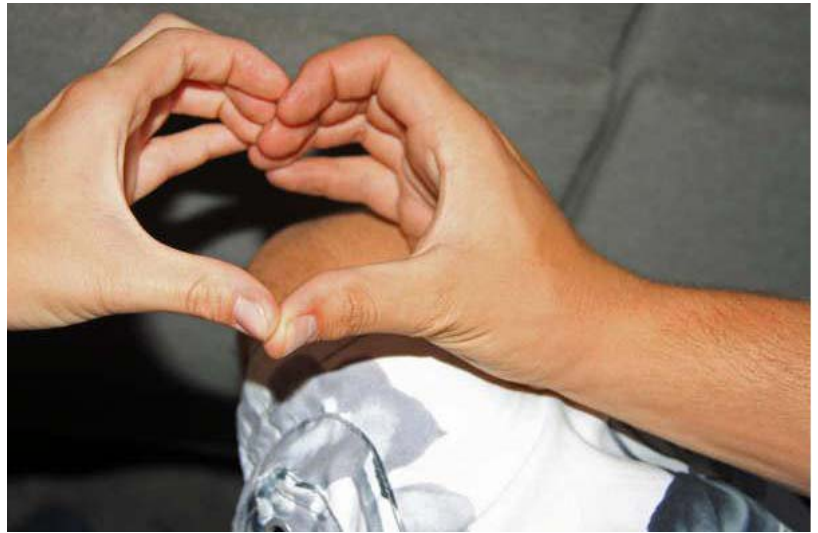
Around the age of five or six he starts to live with his grandparents. His family had a heavy Cherokee culture and that is how he is raised with his grandparents. In the first few chapters Little tree is taught the way of the Cherokee. He is taught to use only what he needed and nothing more to take only the small and sick animals and plants.



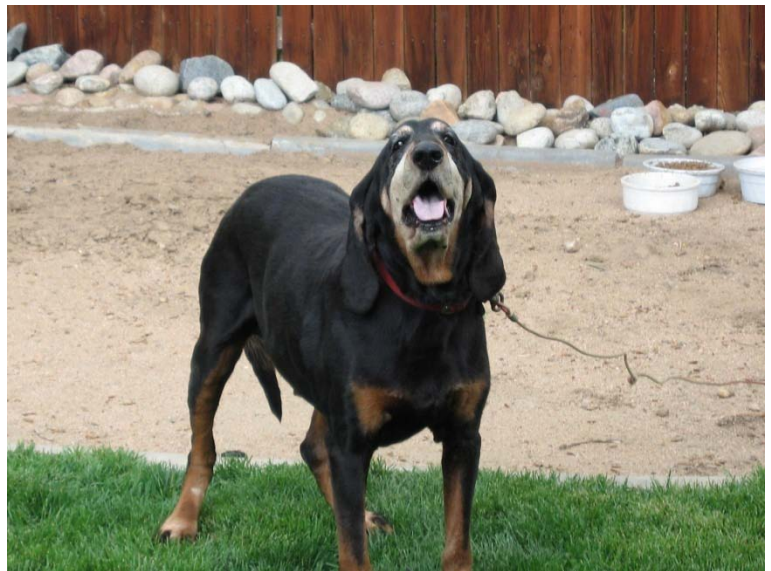
He learns to that nature can talk to people if they listen close enough and use it in the right ways. They called this all night adventure Little Tree's Grandpa took him on was called "The Way." Showing him the life cycle. The next big lesson that he learned was called "Kin," this was the lesson of love. That it is an understanding of one another that over the years his grandparents have grown an understanding where they can know what each other was thinking without even talking. They explain "Kin" as something that couldn't be explained with words.



Little Tree's next lesson was to learn about the past. His Grandpa believed that he couldn't know his future without know where he came from. He told him a story of the Cherokee Tribe being forced out of they land they called home and marched to their new land called the Trail of Tears. He taught Little Tree about honor and pride that no one can take that away from anyone. He also explain where he came from and how he met his wife, and then told him about his parents. He explained to him about the marriage stick that was never to be broken, it was the symbol for their unconditional love for each other.



Toward the middle of the novel Little Tree learns about work. He gets to help his grandpa with his business of making and selling whiskey. They also working on growing their own food and hunting and fishing for food. They used the land to survive, took what they needed to do so and nothing more everything was used. Little Tree was learning the way he could live a sustainable life, how is grandparents live their lives sustainable. They were also educating him by having him read the dictionary and reading books.



With any kind of learning processes there were a few set backs and tests of the knowledge. One set back was when Little Tree and his grandpa were fishing and his grandpa got in front of a rattlesnake for Little Tree and saved his life, and Little Tree went for help and saved his grandpa from dying. Another test that Little Tree encounters is when he has to lead the police away from where they produced the whiskey. The biggest test was leading the city people into the mountains and using the mountain to his advantage to keep them away from their whiskey and confusion this city characters.



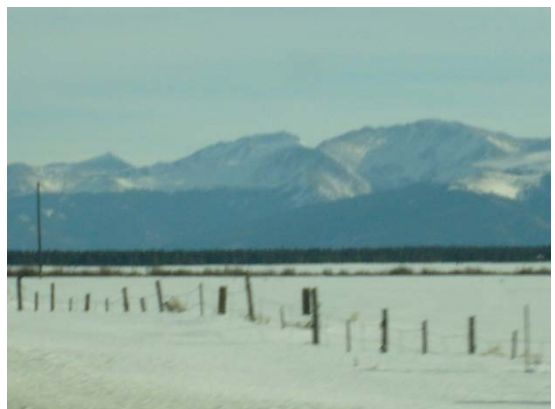
Towards the end of the novel a couple come to take Little Tree away from his grandparents to a fosters home because he is not getting the education he needs and is a bastard child. The only person that can help them have a case in court dies days after they find out the news. Without a case or any evidence they are forced to let Little Tree go. He went to the orphanage and was treated very poorly by everyone. He was physically punished for explaining what he knew about the mountains and the wildlife in the mountains. One evening his grandpa came to visit him. He gave Little Tree the choice of what he wanted without asking him



He was testing him to see and make him decide what he wanted and where He wanted to leave. He of course picked with his grandparents. Upon his return his uncle became ill and passed away. Little did Little Tree know but his uncle was a huge part of Little Tree being able to come home. After awhile he noticed his Grandpas steps were slowing down, he later passed away. Very shortly after that Little Tree's grandma passed away too. After their deaths Little Tree set west to start a new phase of his life.



An interesting analogy used in the novel by Little Tree's grandma was that of her comparison of the four seasons to life on pages 60-61. She compares Spring to being born kicking up a fuzz to getting back to form. Summer is the grown up adult years. Fall is the older years the sad and gloomy years and winter is when everything dies. Everything starts over again in the Spring. I thought this was a really interesting way of comparing the seasons changing to our lives. I liked how Little Tree's Grandma put it and like the comparison of the seasons to life.



The Book Education of Little Tree, can be compared to how a landscape Architect works. The main focus of the novel was the interactions with nature and to work with it and not against it. To respect nature. In the field of Landscape Architecture that is exactly what we have to do. We have to respect nature and understand how it works and interacted with it. We have to work around nature and the seasons of nature. Just like Little Tree being shown "the way" by his Grandpa Landscape Architects have to understand and work with nature to survive.



The novel Education of Little Tree can be compared to not only the career of Landscape Architecture but to me individually. Little Tree learns the ways of life in a different environment than most but is learned the exact same things everyone else would in school. He get hands on and first hand experiences. I liked the way that the seasons were compared to life. I also like the way that love was explained in the novel. That its something that cant be explained in words but it is a complete understanding of each other and comprehend each others thoughts. Finally the way that this family was about to interact with nature and use only what they needed and nothing more.



Photographs
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Native American & Rattlesnake
Pictures from Google Images.