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Properly formatted  
MLA heading

### Brady's Unbearable Burden

In her novel, Red Kayak, author Priscilla Cummings tells the story of an adolescent, Brady Parks, who struggles with tragedy, death, and ultimately regret for how his actions and inactions may have played a part in the death of his young neighbor, Ben DiAngelo. Through Brady's constant questioning of his own decisions, Cummings develops a theme focused on the price of guilt.

title

author

general background information

\*explains the term "guilt"

Claim (addresses \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_)

From the moment Brady is first introduced to the reader as the narrator, it is clear his burden of guilt is heavy. At this point the reader knows nothing about this character except that - Context

he begins the story with a question to himself. The narration starts, "After all this time, I still ask myself: Was it my fault?" (Cummings 1). [As Brady questions himself, the reader can sense his guilt, even though at this point in the story the reason for that guilt has not yet been explained.

Integrated evidence

The fact that he "still" asks himself if it was his "fault" shows that this is something which weighs heavily on his conscience. By adding, "after all this time," Brady infers that this is not something that just happened, but that he has perhaps had time to process it and "still" struggles with the part he played. His questioning of himself over time shows the heavy burden of guilt he carries with him.

specific language of evidence

Analysis:

Connect back to claim

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