

My brother Mitchell

Civil education



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SUMMARY

The title of this film is “My brother Mitchell”, it is about a mother and her sons, one of which has recently died. This mother is very sad and desperate but is helped by other people. Suddenly the scene changes in a dream and the two children are in the garden while giving flowers to their mother. As the two children go away, their mother no longer sees them and gets desperate. The mother wakes up from this dream and then she gets out of bed. She no longer sees her child in the coffin so she goes to look for her son. As a matter of fact the brother of the child has taken the corpse and now he’s carrying him on a small cart. He is very tired for this reason, he falls and hurts his knee.

Suddenly the scene changes again , it’s a memory. While the mother is hanging out the clothes, the two children are on the roof of a shed and courageously throw themselves in the garden, then they smile and roll. The brother takes the other child into the river. Back to the present time, Mitchell’s brother takes off his clothes and leaves them at the edge of the river. Later the tired mother arrives at the river and screams when she sees her son’s clothes. The two children arrive at the top of the mountain and the child begs his dead brother to stay with him. The mother recognizes the cart and goes to them. Her children put their heads close to each other and say goodbye. Mitchell promises to always take care of his brother and mother.

My Brother Mitchell



Sofia

Usually I don't like watching sad movies, I prefer comedy or action films. Despite this, the film really affected me because the main theme is the death of a child and his death underlined the mother's pain. She is in pain because she can't do anything. For this reasons this film is emotionally engaging. It made me understand the importance of a son for a mother. My favourite scene is when the mother, happy and carefree, sees the 2 children playing and smiling in the garden.

I found the film interesting because it talks about ghosts of dear people but you can't understand if the ghost of Mitchell (the dead brother of the main character) is real or it is just an illusion in the brother's mind. The scene that impressed me the most was at the beginning when the mother dreams of her children falling off the cliff and wakes up. The scene is interesting because I think it has the purpose of showing how Mitchell died but it may also have the finality of showing a prediction that the mother had, indeed if the mother didn't wake up the other brother would have died too.

The prediction may also have been induced by Mitchell since he helps his brother a lot in others scenes of the film, Mitchell is very important because he helps his brother through the pain and in the end saves him from suicide.

Cusa



I liked the relationship between the children, because it was not only about brotherhood but also about friendship.

I liked that Michael helped his brother to face his fears and to be brave.

I liked that the brother felt that Michael was with him even though he was dead.

I was surprised that at the beginning of the movie Michael was dead.

I felt sad for the mother because she lost one of her two children.

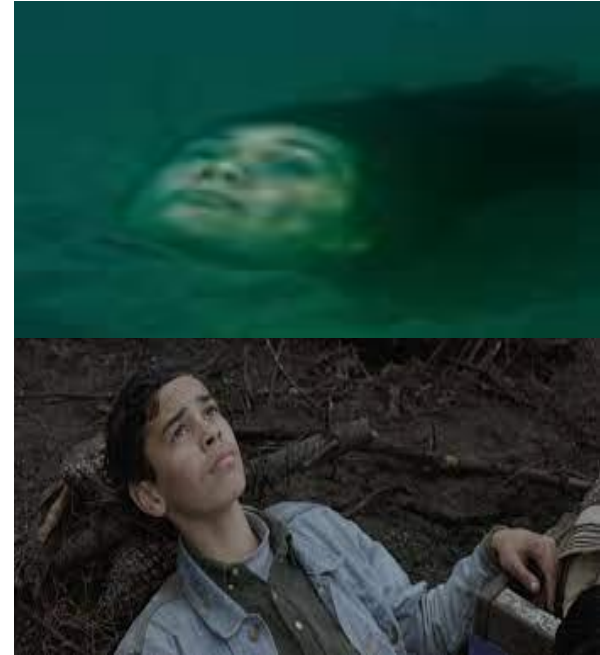
The boy had not only lost a brother but also a friend.



The movie was very sad for me because I felt very moved watching Mitchell's older brother carrying him with a cart till the end of the film because he couldn't accept Mitchell's death.

I admire the fact that the mother during the course of the film was trying to find Mitchell and his brother despite a lot of obstacles to overcome, because every mother won't let their children die or vanish away.

The film overall was very interesting and well made, I recommend it to people who love sad movies with a good ending



TRADITIONS

The film talks about some of the funerary traditions of Maori culture, especially:

- Tangi (tangihanga)
- Marae
- Whanau
- Kehua



Tangi or tangihanga: is the traditional funeral, it lasts three days and it is celebrated in the marae. The dead body is called tūpāpaku and it's buried only at the end of the celebrations because during them it is in an open coffin so that the whanau can pay their respects. The coffin is in a house in the marae called wharenuī opened to the family during the day. Near the coffin whanau puts flowers and photos of the dead. Pō whakamutunga (the night of the end) is the last night, the one in which after a wake the coffin is closed forever. Then there is firstly a Christian function in a church or in the marae, secondly the burial of the body. Finally a banquet is served.

Marae: is a rectangular space surrounded by stones and sometimes terraces. It is a common or sacred place for a religious or social purpose.

Whanau: is the family that includes four generations of relatives. They can live in the same building or be present during celebrations such as tangi.

Kehua: are the spirits, in Maori culture after the death the soul of the person keeps living and remains in the marae. Talking about kehua is a tapu, which means that it is forbidden, but several maori legends tell of their appearance.

Furthermore spirits of relatives can appear to warn of imminent danger, for example in the film Mitchell appears to save his brother from drowning in a river.



ANALOGIES WITH ITALIAN CULTURE

There are also some analogies between the Maori culture and the Italian culture, some examples are:

- The Marae can be relate to church, cathedrals and oratory because all of them are places for praying and for socializing with people of the same community
- Kehua can be related to the people's soul because both, after death, are some sorts of spirits that try to help their family members to reach what they want
- Tapu can be associated with the Christian use to not name God in vain, insulting God is a forbidden action like a tapu





THE END