

## **Book Battle**

### **Home of the Brave vs. The Miraculous Adventures of Edward Tulane**

One of the book match ups on March Book Madness this week is between Home of the Brave, written by Katherine Applegate and The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane, written by Kate DiCamillo. What a tough one this week! While I thoroughly enjoyed reading both of these books and I will never forget either of these books, my favorite of these two will have to be The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. My reasons for this decision is based on the main character, the way the author wrote the story, and what I learned from the book.

You see, even though the story of The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane was a fantasy story, the main character, Edward Tulane was more complex than Kek, in Home of the Brave. Kek struggled with the meaning of family and home. This was of course not easy for Kek and he went through a lot of important events that helped him realize his home. However, I personally felt like Edward's problems evolved as the story went on. He was at first just selfish and did not know how to love. He then had to deal with abandonment over and over again. At last, he finally learned to love while he was with Sarah Ruth. Unfortunately, this led to him losing hope on love when he ended up in the doll store and had to learn about having faith.

Secondly, I really enjoyed how The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane really followed the major characteristics of fantasy stories. Kate DiCamillo did a really good job show us Edward's flaws and taking him on a journey in which his experiences taught him lessons. For me, it felt like a just right book and I had enough background knowledge to understand what was going on. On the other hand, Home of the Brave was a little more difficult to read. There was a lot of information about refugees that I did not know about and had to do some research outside of it. The author also wrote each chapter in a free-verse poetry form and I wasn't as used to it. I preferred the longer, narrative chapters.

Lastly, I learned a lot about life and the world from The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. It hit home for me more than Home of the Brave. I could relate with Edward Tulane and having a flaw about myself that makes people not like me. I learned how it takes a long time and a lot of experiences to change yourself but I also learned that with time, we can all become better people. Love is a hard thing to understand and I really learning about it through Edward's adventures. It was a little harder to relate to Kek in Home of the Brave because I am lucky to have never experienced many of the hardships that he had to face.

While Edward Tulane was a porcelain rabbit, his story and his interactions with each secondary character made an impact on me. It's a story I will always remember when I think about friendships and loving others. It's a story I think that can inspire everyone, including adults, to have hope and be better people. The author, Kate DiCamillo did a great job developing the character and presenting a theme that related with the world. Therefore, for this week, I believe the winner of this match up should be The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane!