

## Expository Essay

“The Barn and the Bees” is a short story about a man who finds a ruined barn and decides to use pieces of it to make his own barn. It describes his work in salvaging parts of the barn as well as the encounters he has with different people involved with the barn. A prominent theme in the story is renewal, shown by how the ruined barn is made into something new. The purpose of the essay seems to be to impress the reader by using complex writing to describe a relatively simple story.

The story is divided into three sections. In the first section, the narrator finds the barn and decides to remake it, introducing the theme. This section is further divided into three subsections, finding the barn, exploring the barn and negotiating for the right to salvage the barn. When he finds the barn, he remembers what the barn used to be like and is saddened by what it has become. As he explores the barn he finds that there is still life in the ruins in the form of a large bee hive that continues its cycle, to live and die and pave the way for the next generation. Seeing the barn broken down such as it is makes him want to rebuild it from its present ashes and see it renewed. Emerging from the barn, he wants to build a new barn from the wreckage and gets permission from the owner to do so.

The second section develops the theme further as he works to salvage the broken pieces of the barn, and several people come and take things from the barn to reuse for themselves. This section is divided into six subsections. First, his work to remove the bees and then the encounters he has with various people. Most of the people, the father

and his sons, the gentleman in yellow slacks, the woman in the farmhouse, and the owner, Peter, take a part of the barn to use for themselves. The wrecker contrasts with these people in his desire to get rid of the barn completely without a care for what it could be used for. These people take the barn or parts of it and change it to make a new thing, but a thing that is still related to the old.

The third section illustrates the theme with the completion of the new barn built from the pieces of the old barn. This section is divided into three subsections. The section begins with him returning home with his load of lumber from the barn and preparing it for the construction of the new barn. He begins construction on the new barn taking his time to reconstruct the barn as well as he can. Finally, he is done with the barn and the bees have returned. All the parts of the story emphasize taking something old and remaking it into something new.

The narrator describes how the boards he is working on will fit into the new barn. The three boys and their father take the roof from the ventilator cupola away from the old barn to be used again. The man in yellow slacks is described taking a board from the barn and sawing it into pieces, making it into something new and different. Physical details like this are the main kind of evidence in the essay. The story is rich in details of the environment and the narrator's actions. Even dialogue passages or passages describing actions are peppered with surrounding physical details while many paragraphs focus solely on these physical details. This evidence develops the theme of renewal by showing how something old can go through a process of change to become something new in the

vague

future.

The final passage of the story describes the newly completed barn. The main kind of evidence is physical details. It describes how blackberry bushes like those found at the old barn would soon grow at the new barn. Additionally the bees from the old barn are at the new barn, or rather the daughters of the daughters of those bees are. The other evidence is the date and time which emphasizes the completion of a cycle, one that has ended in a place similar to where it started from. This passage illustrates the theme by describing the completion of something new, but something that reflects the past.

*Does not really explain*