Survival of the Fittest: A Comparative Analysis of British and American Literature

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Literature of Survival

1.1 Historical Background

The term "survival of the fittest" was first coined by Charles Darwin in his 1859 publication, "On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life." Darwin's theory of natural selection posits that individuals with traits that better enable them to adapt to their environment are more likely to survive and reproduce, passing on these advantageous traits to their offspring. This concept has been influential in shaping evolutionary thought and has been widely applied across various disciplines, including literature.

1.2 Overview of British and American Literature

While both British and American literature have produced works that explore themes of survival and struggle, there are notable differences in how these themes are expressed and analyzed. This chapter aims to provide a comparative analysis of the survival themes found in British and American literature, focusing on the interplay between individual and societal narratives.

Chapter 2: British Literature and Survival

2.1 British Literature Context

British literature has a rich history of exploring themes of survival, ranging from John Milton's "Paradise Lost," which discusses the struggle for survival in a divine world, to Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist," which explores survival against the backdrop of the Victorian slums.

2.2 Survival Themes in British Literature

- Individualism: British literature often portrays the survival of the individual as a primary concern, emphasizing personal agency and resilience.
- Societal Challenges: Themes of societal challenges, such as class struggle and poverty, are prevalent, highlighting the struggle for survival within a rigid social structure.
- Ethical and Moral Concerns: Survival is often seen through the lens of ethical and moral decisions, reflecting on the consequences of survival strategies.

Chapter 3: American Literature and Survival

3.1 American Literature Context

American literature has also delved into the theme of survival, but with a distinct perspective often tied to the nation's historical struggles, such as the Civil War, the Great Depression, and the Cold War.

3.2 Survival Themes in American Literature

- Individualism: Similar to British literature, American literature values individual survival and resilience, but often within the context of a new nation building.
- Technological Advancements: Survival is often intertwined with technological advancements, reflecting the nation's rapid industrialization and urbanization.
- Environmental Impact: American literature increasingly addresses environmental challenges, exploring how survival is connected to the health of the natural world.

Chapter 4: Comparative Analysis

4.1 Similarities and Differences

While both countries have explored similar themes of survival, the approaches and contexts differ. British literature tends to focus on the struggle against established societal systems, whereas American literature more frequently examines survival within the context of rapid change and technological progress.

4.2 Implications for Future Studies

This comparative analysis highlights the importance of considering cultural and historical contexts when examining survival themes in literature. Future studies may benefit from exploring how these themes are adapted to contemporary global challenges such as climate change and pandemics.

Conclusion

By comparing British and American literature, this study has shed light on the diverse ways in which survival is conceived and addressed. It is hoped that this comparative approach will inspire further research into the multiple layers of meaning and implications that survival narratives contain.

References

This chapter has cited various works of British and American literature, including "Oliver Twist," "Paradise Lost," and "On the Origin of Species." Further in-depth analysis could delve into specific works and authors to provide a more nuanced exploration of survival themes.
S 2741. Definitions. As used in this article:

1. "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF BRAIN INJURY.

[1] 2. "Traumatic brain injury" means an acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force resulting in total or partial disabil-
ity or impairment and shall include but not be limited to damage to the central nervous system from anoxic/hypoxic episodes or damage to the central nervous system from allergic conditions, toxic substances and other acute medical/clinical incidents. Such term shall include, but not be limited to, open and closed brain injuries that may result in mild, moderate or severe impairments in one or more areas, including cogni-
tion, language, memory, attention, reasoning, abstract thinking, judg-
ment, problem-solving, sensory perceptual and motor abilities, psycho-
social behavior, physical functions, information processing and speech. Such term shall not include progressive dementias and other mentally impairing conditions, depression and psychiatric disorders in which there is no known or obvious central nervous system damage, neurologi-
cal, metabolic and other medical conditions of chronic, congenital or degenerative nature or brain injuries induced by birth trauma.

[2] 3. "Concussion" means a mild traumatic injury to the brain that is characterized by immediate and transient alteration of mental status and level of consciousness, resulting from mechanical force or trauma.

S 2742. Functions, powers and duties of the [department] OFFICE. The [department] OFFICE shall have the following powers and duties:

1. to develop a comprehensive statewide program that includes medical, housing, vocational, educational, transportation, social, personal care, family support, day program services, community re-entry services, outpatient rehabilitation services and other essential services;
2. to develop outreach services to provide coordinated information regarding assistance available to persons with traumatic brain injury and their families;
3. to develop and maintain a clearinghouse of information on traumatic brain injuries and concussions, including but not limited to, resources that support the development and implementation of community-based services and rehabilitation;
4. to track the amount of and cost of services provided to persons with traumatic brain injury placed in out-of-state treatment settings;
5. to develop innovative educational programs on the causes and prevention of traumatic brain injuries and concussions, with an emphasis on outreach campaigns. Such programs and information shall include, but not be limited to, treatment and services for persons with traumatic brain injury and/or a concussion and their families;
6. to accept and expend any grants, awards of other funds or appropri-
ations as may be available for these purposes, subject to limitations as to the approval of expenditures and audits as prescribed for state funds by the state finance law;
7. to gather and disseminate statistics and conduct investigations and research relating to the causes and prevention of traumatic brain injuries and concussions and the treatment of such injuries, including the methods and procedures for rehabilitation, including from time to time, such publications for distribution to appropriate scientific organiza-
tions;
8. to contract with independent consultants to conduct assessments of the needs of persons with traumatic brain injury;
9. to develop training programs for persons providing discharge plans and case management; and
10. to develop standards for licensing or certifying residential and non-residential services for persons with traumatic brain injury to the extent that such services are not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of another state agency.

S 2743. Funding of traumatic brain injury services. 1. The [department] OFFICE shall develop AND SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSIONER AND THE GOVERNOR, a biennial plan and priorities for the funding of services and programs as authorized by this article, with emphasis on the development and expansion of community-based services and programs.

2. Such plan shall provide for the development of services, dispersed geographically to the extent feasible, which shall minimize the need for out-of-state placements and promote the return of individuals currently placed out-of-state to enhance family involvement and promote community reintegration.

3. The [department] OFFICE shall, to the extent feasible, utilize existing organizations with demonstrated interest and expertise in serving persons with traumatic brain injuries and shall, within funds available, enter into contracts with such organizations.

S 2744. [The traumatic] TRAUMATIC brain injury services coordinating council. 1. The traumatic brain injury services coordinating council is hereby established and shall consist of the following persons or their designees: the commissioner, the commissioner of [mental retardation and] developmental disabilities, the [office] COMMISSIONER of mental health, the commissioner of education, the commissioner of alcoholism and substance abuse services, the commissioner of [social services, the state advocate for the disabled] TEMPORARY AND DISABILITY ASSISTANCE, THE COMMISSIONER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES and the [commission on quality of care for the mentally disabled] EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JUSTICE CENTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. In addition, the council shall consist of the following persons: five persons appointed by the governor, three of whom shall be persons with traumatic brain injury and two of whom shall be representative of the public and have a demonstrated expertise and interest in traumatic brain injury; two persons appointed by the temporary president of the senate, one of whom shall be a person with traumatic brain injury and one of whom shall be representative of the public and have a demonstrated expertise and interest in traumatic brain injury; two persons appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one of whom shall be a person with traumatic brain injury and one of whom shall be representative of the public and have a demonstrated expertise and interest in traumatic brain injury, one person appointed by the minority leader of the senate who shall be a person with traumatic brain injury or be representative of the public and have a demonstrated expertise and interest in traumatic brain injury; and one person appointed by the minority leader of the assembly who shall be a person with traumatic brain injury or be representative of the public and have a demonstrated expertise and interest in traumatic brain injury. Of the five persons appointed by the governor, three shall serve for a term of one year, one shall serve for a term of two years and one shall serve for a term of three years. Of the two persons appointed by the speaker of the assembly, one shall serve for a term of two years and one shall serve for a term of three years. The person appointed by the minority leader of the senate and the person appointed by the minority leader of the assembly shall serve for a term of one year. Subsequent appointments for vacancies shall be for a
term of three years and shall be filled in the same manner as the
original appointment.

2. The council shall be charged with recommending to the [department] GOVERNOR long range objectives, goals and priorities. It shall also provide advice on the planning, coordination and development of needed services.

3. The members of the council shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties [hereunder] PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE, subject to the approval of the [commissioner] DIRECTOR OF THE BUDGET.

4. (a) Within the traumatic brain injury services coordinating council there shall be established a concussion management advisory committee which shall develop recommendations specific to concussion management, academic scholarship, and public awareness for submission to the traumatic brain injury services coordinating council for consideration. The committee shall consist of members appointed from the membership of the traumatic brain injury services coordinating council by a majority vote of the council. Additional committee members may be appointed by the commissioner and shall have demonstrated experience with or expertise in one of the following areas: public health expertise related to mild traumatic brain injuries and concussions, academic research in the area of traumatic brain injuries and concussion management, and public awareness experience related to the recognition of mild traumatic brain injuries and concussions. Committee membership shall not exceed twelve members. The committee may consult with a member or members of the public who have demonstrated expertise and interest in mild traumatic brain injuries and concussions.

(b) The recommendations of the advisory committee shall include, but not be limited to:
   (i) methods to raise public awareness of mild traumatic brain injuries and concussions;
   (ii) the development of outreach services to provide coordinated information regarding the recognition and management of mild traumatic brain injuries and concussions; and
   (iii) the development of a clearinghouse of academic research and scientific findings related to the recognition, management, and treatment of mild traumatic injuries and concussions.

S 2. This act shall take effect immediately.