

How does the Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline reflect Canada presently and historically

The Canada of Cherie Dimaline's story takes inspiration from both the present and past of Canada. This is seen through the entire story of the book.

For instance, the characters in this book make a huge effort to reconnect with the culture that was taken away from them. This is through Minerva teaching an Indigenous language to the characters and telling Indigenous myths such as the wendigo to the cast of characters. This is due to, as it is presently for many Indigenous people, their ancestor having to go to residential schools and being forced to leave their parents. Moreover, when the Europeans came, they gave diseases which wiped out Indigenous peoples which caused many Indigenous elders to die and not pass down their oral traditions. Presently, many Indigenous people have to leave their parents due to generational trauma leading to them being over-represented in the foster system. However, as of today and in the book, Indigenous people have been able to practice their culture and keep it alive even though there has been so much effort to destroy it.

Moreover, the society of this book looks down at Indigenous people as has been done historically. Many of the people view Indigenous as animals especially, the recruiters. This is shown in Minerva's capture, with one of the recruiters thinking *"The chase was the crux; after that, who cared how the savages screamed or cried?"*. Moreover, this is also seen when Miigwan explains the backstories of the groups, specifically in the twins origin story of what had been done to them by towns people *"We found them tied up in a barn, dangling like scarecrows from a rope thrown over a beam."* He sighed, paused for another breath. *"They were full of holes that'd been stitched up with rough thread, all up and down their sides. And with a pinky missing on each hand. They were seven then."* As in the past, the people at the time didn't see Indigenous peoples as humans but, as savages that needed help from Europeans. This is shown how throughout Canadian history, Euro-Canadian have banned elements of Indigenous culture and forced assimilation to Indigenous children due to them thinking that their culture was inferior.

Overall, this book reflects the past of Canada and how the past could be potentially repeated in the future.