

ENGLISH STANDARD

The Global Village

Attitudes, values and beliefs may be challenged by the experience of living in the Global Village, but such challenges may also bring about significant rewards. This idea is depicted in Rob Stitch's film, *The Castle*, through the battle between Darryl Kerrigan and a transnational corporation, reminiscent of David versus Goliath, in which dominant attitudes of economic rationalism challenge the beliefs of the individual. However, this challenge can result in rewards for the individual including, the continuity of the individual's attitudes and value of home, cultural relativism and new friendships, promoting a more egalitarian society within the global village.

Dominant attitudes such as economic rationalism can challenge the individual's values and strong beliefs of the concept of home, however, this can result in victory and lead to rewards. For example, wider society's need for globalisation is depicted through the 'compulsory acquisition' of the Kerrigan family home. This challenges their family beliefs that, 'a man's home is his castle.' These opposing views are further illustrated through the alternating mid shots of Darryl and the council clerk. This reinforced by Darryl's emphatic statement, "Don't pretend to be on my side!" highlights his frustrations of his attitudes, values and beliefs towards the concept of home being challenged by the global village. However, this challenge results in Darryl's victory leading to his reward of the continuity of his attitudes, values and beliefs of home. This significant reward can be depicted through the mid shot of Darryl in his patio, the mise en scene highlights his happiness through the placing of a beer, which in Australian culture symbolises happiness and relaxation. This is reinforced by the alternating shots of Darryl's beloved powerlines, planes and a mid shot of his home, followed by Dale's voice-over, "...and they still live at 3 Highview Crescent, Coolaroo." Thus, highlighting Darryl's reward. Therefore, the global village's attitudes of economic rationalism can challenge the individual's strong beliefs and values, but this results in significant rewards.

An individual's challenged attitudes, values and beliefs can result in significant rewards such as cultural relativism and new friendships. For example, the David versus Goliath story of *The Castle*, is highlighted through the dialogue, "You can't buy what I've got," this statement highlighting Darryl's strong belief in his home, which is juxtaposed with the idea that Airlink, "...has a right to purchase property compulsorily." This challenge results in new cultural attitudes in Darryl as depicted through the dialogue, "'I'm really startin' to understand how the Aborigines feel...this house is like their land, it holds their memories. The land is their story... it's everything.'" This new attitude is validated by Darryl's sincere tone and close up shot highlighting his understanding. In addition, the challenges faced through Darryl's fight with Airlink results in a new friendship with Hammil. This new friendship is portrayed through the slow panning of photos of Darryl and Laurie in Darryl's treasured pool room, signifying the importance of their friendship. The voice over also enhances the value of their friendship, "...and he and dad still hit it off as good as they did the first day they met." Their new friendship also promotes a symbolises a breakdown of class barriers in the global village, as Hammil is, "a lawyer rich people use." This promotes an egalitarian society amongst the global village, thus not only a reward for the individual but for wider society. Thus, challenged attitudes, values and beliefs can result in new cultural understandings and new friendships.