

Student Sample 2 FINAL DRAFT

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The Gust of Migration

Migration can mean many different things, some people are forcefully moved and for others it could be their best option. The topic of moving is a universal theme that affects all people throughout time, from Shakespeare to modern day Syrian refugees. One could argue that good qualities can come from migration whether forced or not.

When migration is involuntary, it may only look like a hardship. However, as seen in the following examples, even these tragedies can have positive elements to them. In *The Tempest*, Prospero turned his life around even though he and his daughter were cast away to sea from their homeland. “We were pushed out of power by evil deeds, as you call them. But we were blessed in being helped toward this island.” He turned his tragedy into a new life on an island. Another example is from *The Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*, a mother and her sick daughter were kidnapped by Native Americans and held captive. Even after watching them kill her family she stayed strong. “I cannot but take notice of the wonderful mercy of God to me in those afflictions.” Mrs. Mary Rowlandson was starting to lose faith but reading the Bible verses helped her hold her head high, “I do not desire to live to forget this Scripture, and what comfort it was to me.”

Voluntary migration, or choosing to move when it seems to be the best option, can also alter human behavior. As seen in *A teenager starting over in Canada*, Ibraheem lived in Syria where his mother and siblings were killed by missiles. He adjusted to his new life starting over in

Canada and kept pushing himself because he knew that he wanted to make something of his second chance. “We went out against our will, and we shall return with our hope”. Although he was internally struggling, he continued to see the light in a dark situation. Another example of how moving can positively change one’s perspective is Chimamanda Adichie. She is an African American storyteller who chose to move from Nigeria to the United States. Her experience is common with relocations and how different races “kick out” and discriminate against people who then have to find new countries to live in. “...The consequence of the single story is this: It robs people of dignity. It makes our recognition of our equal humanity difficult. It emphasizes how we are different rather than how we are similar.”

In conclusion one can see that even the most extreme examples of having to move can bring about positive changes in those peoples lives. It is clear that those who have benefited most from forced migration relied on thinking positively. A tempest is defined as a violent windy storm, and migration is like a tempest in the sense that it disrupts life, it displaces you from what you’re used to, and it brings the migrators to the mercy of others and nature.