

The novel *Legacy* by Whiti Hereaka tells the story of Riki, a 17-year-old boy who is only concerned about his future and his girlfriend Gemma. His life is drastically changed when he gets hit by a bus and is pulled through a time slip, back to the war of 1915 in place of his great-great-grandfather, Te Ariki in the battle of Wazza. The author is trying to get us to consider the idea that not only is propaganda important in times of war but also in times of peace. The author uses the theme of propaganda to display the use of romanticising war to compel young people and soldiers to enlist in war. She also gives us the idea of the voices of the past being silenced to retain the truths of war. This is shown through the aspect of characterisation and the aspect of symbolism. This links to the wider world because propaganda still exists in our world today. Voices from the past are beginning to speak out and share their stories.

The idea that propaganda (misleading or biased information used to promote a political point of view) and is shown through the characterisation of Te Awhina, Riki's mother. At the beginning of the novel, Te Awhina is transcribing old cassette tapes of Te Ariki. Te Awhina disapproves of war but wants the real truths about it to be remembered. She has a very strong perspective on war and how war is seen to be something it's not. We see this when Te Awhina talks about waiting till all the veterans are gone, so the powers can put their words into their mouths. "We would rather think of war as a jolly adventure. We need to change the narrative." Changing the narrative is about listening to those who have spoken their truths about war and looking at war from a different perspective. It's about changing the way people view war and the veterans for example when people call and treat soldiers 'heroes' instead of men or humans who have gone through a dreadful experience. Te Awhina uses the idea of romanticising war to reinforce the key theme of propaganda. The author is using Te Awhina to talk about topics of making soldiers seem like heroes and making war seem like an adventure. This displays propaganda because it shows misleading information to promote a specific point of view on a political cause (war). The way Te Awhina's character is written challenges the audience's idea of war and displays the use of propaganda in the world.

The purpose of *Te Awhina* is to challenge how the audience views war and to make them rethink how the media has the power to mould the story of war. Whiti Hereaka is trying to get the audience to consider how we speak of war and changing the way history is moulded. She wants the audience to be aware that how a story is told can change how people think of real, historical events. This makes me think about all the young men who are going to fight against Ukraine and how they may not be completely aware of the situation they are going to be in. This is because of the way the stories have been told about war in the past, and how the story of war has been changed and moulded to seem more glorious than it is. This makes me think about other interpretations of the text. One of them is how the author used a simile to compare soldiers to kids. "They seem more like kids on an away game than born warriors" This makes us think the soldiers are too young to be in the situation of war. It also suggests these soldiers are naive and carefree, whereas soldiers would be more aware of the brutal reality that awaits them. She makes the link to make us think about teenagers going off to play a game of football, and then having to imagine the same people going off to war. This links to propaganda because the recruitment process encouraged soldiers to think

they are signing up for a glorious type of war. This helped deepen my understanding of Te Awhina because it helped put the purpose of Te Awhina into perspective as she is focused on challenging the use of propaganda and romanticising war.

In the novel, Hereaka uses cassette tapes to tell Te Ariki's story. They are interviews with Te Ariki about his experience and his perspective on the stories that have been told about war. These cassette tapes symbolise the voices of the past, voices that have been silenced to preserve the truth. An example of this would be Te Awhina saying "People are waiting till all the veterans are gone, so the powers can put their words into the veteran's mouths." This means, the media (news, government, social media ) waiting till soldiers from past wars can't tell their stories anymore, so they can mould the story of war. The cassette tapes are about giving Te Ariki a voice to share their stories instead of the ones we are told and are urged to believe by those who are wanting to conserve the truth of war. The cassette tapes are an important symbol in which Whiti Hereaka conveys propaganda. " If you don't speak up for yourself, then other people are more than happy to speak for you; to invent something to fill the void. To 'change the narrative', some might say." This means that speaking up and telling your story is vitally important, otherwise, the story can be changed and modified to fit the story that others want to be told rather than sharing the stories that should be told.

The author used cassette tapes to make the audience think about how history is moulded by those who tell it - so it's vitally important to tell your own story. The cassette tapes link to this because they are all about Te Ariki telling his story, and trying to re-mould the narrative of war. This makes me think of the similarities between the cassette tapes and today. The cassette tapes are all about Te Ariki, a WWI veteran telling his story. This makes me think about interviews that we see on news platforms like Channel 1 News. There is a story about a WWII soldier sharing his story with the world. He talks about the treatment he received when he came home from war which is very similar to Te Ariki's interviews on cassette tapes. The cassette tapes also represent the truth. The author uses cassette tapes to show the opposite of propaganda to display and stand for truth. This was shown through Te Ariki's stories on the cassette tapes and how he was telling his truth through his experiences and perspective on war. These were passed down through generations of his family to share his truth and stand against propaganda. This can also link to the wider world today because today's version of cassette tapes are social media and videos. There have been many videos on topics like these of people sharing their stories/truths that can be passed down through generations.

The aspects of characterisation and symbolism have worked together to create a new perspective and understanding of propaganda. Te Awhina is used to show the theme of Propaganda by bringing attention to how people view war and how it has been moulded through stories of people who have never been to war. This works with the cassette tapes because the cassette tapes show how war veterans feel about being called heroes and how they feel silenced due to others telling and changing their stories for them. Together, these made me think about the way history has been moulded and how important is it to be able to tell your story, instead of being silenced and letting others mould your story for you. The cassette tapes also tie in with Te Awhina because they contrast Te Awhina's emphasis on Propaganda by sharing the truth. They help create a deeper understanding of Propaganda because they show how different the real truth is to the biased truth that is told and moulded

by others (government, news). It shows the difference between propaganda which is misleading/biased and truth which is voices.