

Compare how the two texts show the burden experienced by those in leadership roles

An exploration of the hardships experiences within leadership is central to both texts. Malouf's Ransom demonstrates how freedom within leadership and the ability to shape one's duty as a leader can lessen their burden faced. However Fears' The Queen heavily depicted how one's commitment to leadership can severely place and create hardship in a leaders life. Despite this both texts examine what it means to be a leader and the impact that has on those who lead lives.

Evident in both texts is the underlying reliance on tradition that suppresses one's ability to form a separate identity to that of just a leader. Within Ransom, Priam's duty as king is heavily tied in traditional symbolism in which he is unable to live a life as "merely human". As Priam forever remains in "ceremonial stillness" he is unable to explore his personal values outside of tradition, forcing him to remain "unchangeable" and thus stifling his ability to form his own identity and take on "...the lighter role of being a man". In accordance to this, Queen Elizabeth whole identity is consumed by her duty as a Queen and the values in which she must display. This is depicted across The Queen as Queen Elizabeth remains stoic in expression across the film, creating the constancy of a lack of emotion alluding to a lack of depth in personality outside of her role as a leader. This ingrained reliance on tradition sees Queen Elizabeth "do nothing" in regards to a highly emotive situation highlighting her inability to separate who she is as a person and the responsibilities that shape her decisions. Overall, the impact of tradition on leadership creates an inability for leaders to explore themselves as not just their duty.

Both The Queen and Ransom illustrate how leadership acts as a burden on personal relationships. Fears demonstrates this through the strained essential family relationships that Queen Elizabeth has. The film imagery of Queen Elizabeth standing at the doorway to her grandchildren during an emotional moment, unable to enter or speak words of condolences, depicts how leadership and duty place pressure in relationships. Queen Elizabeth, although holding great care, is tied to her duty as Queen and is unable to foster those personal relationships at the expense of the loss of tradition, which ultimately leads Queen Elizabeth to forever be restrained in her capacity to show affection. This is further portrayed between Queen Elizabeth and her husband Phillip, through the film imagery of them lying rigid and physically distanced within bed after being awoken by a servant. This further highlights the lack of personal connection that Queen Elizabeth's relationships hold due to their emotional distance, which is a direct juxtaposition to Mr Blair's and his wife's relationship who display high levels of care. Thus alluding to the coolness and lack of affection in Queen Elizabeth's relationships resulting from her duty as Queen. Similarly, in Ransom Priam is also restrained in his connections to his offspring because of his role as King. Priam's duties have acted as a barrier to him remembering and being there for the milestones within his sons and daughters childhood, restricting his capacity to therefore love them and be involved in the role as a father. Through the juxtaposition of Somax's fond memories of his own sons and his grand daughters "griddle cakes" compared to Priam's lack of involvement with his children, it reinforces the difference of how relationships can be formed when living the commander

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Comment [6]: emanating a consistent

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Comment [7]: which is portrayed as being loving and caring

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life. Ultimately, the traditional role of leader burdens their ability to form meaningful relationships to the same extent as to what is expected.

The idea of leadership acting as a barrier to the personal journey of grief is explored within both texts. Within The Queen Charles role as a member of the royal family and being under the decisions of Queen Elizabeth, greatly impacts his ability to transition through the journey of grief and find closure. This is demonstrated as at the news of Diana's accident Charles is denied the ability to immediately fly to Paris at the risk of the royal family being "attack[ed]" by the public. Thus his position of duty restricts his ability to make emotive decisions in the interest of personal gain. This is further portrayed as although Charles pushed to approach Diana's death in a "modern way" to achieve both public and personal closure, his journey of grief is suppressed by traditional leadership of "private mourning". Therefore, Charles is unable to undergo his own personal journey through mourning at the expense of the traditional leadership which governs his ability to make decisions. This is contradicted within Ransom as Priam embarks on a journey of "something new" that dissolves his traditional leadership role and frees him to undergo his personal journey through grief at his own accord. Priam's position as an absolute leader allowed him to make the decisions to go to Achilles "stripped of all glimmering distractions" and ultimately temporarily discard his leadership role to set aside the burden of responsibility in the pursuit of closure for the death of Hector. By doing so, Priam explores the simplicity of a normal life untied from the restraints of being a leader which works to achieve Priam's desire and need for closure. This alludes to how Priam's duty acted as a barrier to finding a way out of his grief due to the responsibility of acting as a symbol, while simultaneously suggesting that the one way Priam found closure was through his control over his decisions in order to branch out and do something new. Thus, an individual's position as a leader is seen to both hinder and ensure one's progression through personal journey.

Both texts reinforce how the duties of leadership burden the possibility for sustained growth even after a period of change. In Ransom despite Priam's shift of views to consider the possibility for "chance" he ultimately reverts back to his traditional thinking of his fate being in "other hands". Therefore highlighting how his core beliefs as a leader have gone unchanged, reinforcing his symbolism of being permanent and "unchangeable" as King. This is further supported as although Achilles and Priam have connected both as "men" and as a "father" they remain tied within their position of war so that no progression and personal growth can occur. Thus despite Priam's ability to momentarily disattach from his role as a leader he is unable to maintain within this changed outlook due to his duty to convert back into the leadership of Troy. In a similar way, Queen Elizabeth goes unchanged from her personal journey as despite compromising to show the British people she indeed had a "heart" and temporality pushed aside her reliance on tradition, she immediately went back into her leadership position with no change and intent to reframe her duty. This is depicted as after the crisis, Queen Elizabeth reverted back to her old unchangeable office in Buckingham palace, acting as a symbol that no real change has occurred. In the end, although both leaders stepped away from traditional aspects of their role, they ultimately resumed their positions and the associated burdens after the period of change.

Ultimately, both texts delved into the ability for leaders to avoid certain challenges associated with leadership, and explored the complexity of removing those burdens overall. Both Ransom and The Queen offered an insight into the unavoidable barriers that strain

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Comment [11]: the expectations that he would abide by the decisions...

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Comment [12]: A contrary path is taken in...

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Comment [13]: that enables him to devolve/discard his traditional leadership role

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Comment [14]: of

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Comment [15]: detach

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Comment [16]: this

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Comment [17]: revert back into his traditional leadership role as King of Troy

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Comment [18]: situated back in her sitting room at Buckingham Palace, with everything as it was prior to the constitutional crisis,

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Comment [19]: delve

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one's life as a leader while depicting that the greatest burden of all was the inability to mould or change within leadership, reinforcing how "uneasy lies the head that wears the crown".

