

How to Steal a Dog – by Barbara O'Connor

A story about a girl who, together with her brother and her mother, lives out of a car and desperately wants to help her mom raise the cash it takes to live in an apartment again.

This book raises important issues of our society. For example: poverty. It can happen to anyone to lose a job, in a heartbeat, and then one can not pay the rent, and is forced to live on the streets. And once you live on the streets, it becomes very hard to get a new job, because people do not like to deal with homeless folks. Therefore, it often starts a viscous cycle out of which it is very hard to get out. Where does poverty come from? Why is there poverty and how to we get rid of it? How can we help people who live in poverty?

In the book it also raises the issue of race. The dog owner lady is white. And how does she live? She lives in a big house. Her daddy used to own the entire area. White symbolizes and equals rich in this case. There also is a teacher. His name is Mr. White. He is Georgina's favorite teacher - a good teacher. White equals good in this case.

And then there are the others. Georgina's mom is homeless. And of course so are the children. The mom is a good person - but homeless. And the same goes for Mookie. He is a smart man, but homeless. And Georgina also describes him as crazy. So here black symbolizes and equals good but poor and crazy.

So another question is, why does the author of the book, Barbara O`Connor, a white woman, send these messages in her book: white = rich and good / black = poor and crazy? What do we learn from these pictures portrayed? This is why i always talk about racism and politics. The world is a complicated mess and it is important that children learn about the world not only from the perspective of the white people in school, like white teachers and white book authors, who too often portray black people in a bad light, but you must also learn about the world from black people, who portray black people in positive and good pictures. That is immensely important.

Thankfully the book "how to steal a dog" also mentions that money is not as important as deeds. It is more important to be a good person than it is being rich. That is very, very true. It is more important what tracks you leave behind than it is how much money you have. On those tracks, it is important not to lie, but to be honest und upfront, especially with your family. Be open and tell your heart, your concerns, your fears and your happy moments. Let's share our lives and help each other become happy beings