Sea Devil and Mountain Journey Essay

How do we distinguish right from wrong? In both the stories of a mountain journey and the sea devil we are faced with two men how have a similar massage in their respective stories. They both thought that they where more powerful then nature. In the sea devil, the protagonist is a man who has a normal job that uses his brain, so he likes to net fish at night that is a symbol for all of humanity, and his ideas towards nature are supposed to reflect ours. The second man Dave Conroy is a trapper in the mountains and is trying to go back to market with his heavy pack of furs. They both go into the story thinking that the world is their oyster, and that nature only exists to serve them, like the man in Steve Cutts video, Man; “he looked up and heard a droning sound, a plane… a symbols of mans mastery over nature” -The man from the Sea Devil. The men are both arrogant of natures power over man and both think that they can outsmart the elements. They cannot. The sea devil man throws his net without thinking and is almost drowned by a huge manta ray, while Dave Conroy makes one bad decision after the other. His storey ends with him freezing in a snowbank and dying an ignorant fool who thought he was smarter and stronger then the mountain. So how do they distinguish right from wrong? The sea devil man learns what being the hunted over being the hunter feels like, and he gained a new respect for life. Dave could not make the right decisions, so ii think that these storeys give us a lesson on respect for nature and the environment to make the right choices. Some people think that the environment depends on how humans use it, but we depend on the environment. For example, if we keep letting global warming get worse and worse, the earth will survive, but will we? The floods, mass extinction and famine it will cause will probably make us go just as extinct as the polar bears will soon. Dave had no respect for the wilderness. He was a trapper; he had worked there for years. Now in both stories luck was a huge element; in the sea devil the barnacles cut the rope, while in a mountain journey he dropped his only way to make fire and he could no pick it back up with his frozen hands. Then he died. Dave had an ego so big and he thought he was so good that he thought that when he froze his hands that they where just numb. He died. That message tells me that we better start making the right decisions to help the environment rather then harm it. We need to stop hurting the earth, before the earth starts hurting us.