

Often times we read a book for pleasure or for an assignment; however, I don't think we take the time to think about it. After reading a book, we feel warm inside or inspired. Maybe next time, analyze what you just read. Take five minutes to understand the message or meaning the book portrays. *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan, has the underlying theme of discrimination and dislike.

In *Crazy Rich Asians*, there are many themes displayed that are quite obvious. Two of them are love and wealthy family dynamics. I think that discrimination is an important theme in the book. To summarize the book's theme, it's essential to understand the relationship between the main characters Rachel and Nick. Although this may seem ordinary, Nick is special. His family is incredibly rich. Rachel does not know about Nick's prestigious family until they go to Singapore to meet them. The conflict is that Nick wants to marry Rachel but his family will not approve because she does not have a prestigious family lineage. Rachel is faced with unaccepting and traditional family members. For some time, Rachel deals with the hate, until it crosses the line. She begins to lose her love for Nick because she can't be accepted by his family. This barrier seemed like it could never be overcome. The doors were shut and locked on Rachel.

Love is a powerful thing. Despite all the hate glowing from Nick's family, between Rachel and Nick there was an inseparable love. Rachel was not accepted because of something she couldn't control. Together they destroyed the barrier, because of their unique and powerful love for each other. They got married, dismissing all the pointless family drama.

This may seem like an ignorant decision. However, Rachel and Nick were able to learn and grow from this experience. They learned that what others may think about you doesn't define you. Although the door was shut on their relationship and Rachel was cruelly judged, the love the couple had kept the door open. Family is vital, but discriminatory decisions do not define us.

Many of us can relate to Rachel's circumstance. Frequently, others may judge us or hold a grudge against us based on something we can't control. For example, Rachel was judged because of her lineage. We may be judged by skin color, appearance, or even our shoes. Although this may seem ridiculous, I think it is fair to say that we, at one time or another, have judged someone for one of these reasons. This shows how we can slam the door on someone, without realizing it, without good reason.

We need to focus on opening the door. Take time to "put yourself in their shoes." Believe it or not, just by being in someone's perspective, you are able to understand them. I think that although it is hard not to judge someone and shut the door, we need to welcome them in with open arms and a smile.