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Snow

How would you describe snow to someone who hasn't seen or felt snow? Would you mention the beautiful scenery of the city, as white, cloud-like flakes fall from the sky, covering the street? Or the unpleasant residue it leaves behind as it melts? The musical "Snow" by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe presents a similar situation with two exchange students: one from Thailand, with tropical weather all year round, and the other from a place where it typically snows. Equipped with different perspectives from countries in completely different climate zones, they both had conflicting viewpoints on snow. Despite having divergent viewpoints, both characters were able to reach a shared understanding. The shift in viewpoint is predominantly depicted through body language as the musical proceeded.

The musical begins with both students introducing each other: the Thai girl exclaims that the school was her "first choice" ("Snow" by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe) with her eyes almost popping out of her face, while the other girl replies, "this is just the only place I could come...Why this place? It's for shit." ("Snow" by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe), with a confused, repulsed face. The Thai girl replies with a huge grin on her face: "I just want to see...feel...taste...play...the snow." ("Snow" by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe). She continues with questions like, "Is it cold, soft, clean, and bright? Is it all one color, sparkly, and white?" ("Snow" by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe), in a semi-fast, high-pitched tone, as wrinkles began forming on her forehead from her grin, and her hands were constantly moving as she spoke. Through her

vibrant facial expressions and constant body movements, it is clear that the Thai girl yearns for the experience of snow, as she describes it as a magical experience.

As the Thai girl rambles enthusiastically about snow, the other girl watches with a disapproving glance. Receiving a question concerning the purity of snow, she replies, shaking her head side to side, “No... it's dirty and sometimes yellow.” (“Snow” by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe) with a disdainful expression on her face. Despite the Thai girl’s animated, verbose concept of snow, the other girl expressed no interest in the topic. Her listless body movements and facial gestures demonstrated her disinterest, unmoved by the idea of snow. The difference between the girls’ body language is very distinct, portraying their perception of the topic.

Despite initially having conflicting viewpoints, their perspective began shifting towards the end. The shift began when the Thai girl asked the other girl what she liked about the snow, to which she responded: “One time my nina and I poured maple syrup on the snow, it was the best thing I ever had.” (“Snow” by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe) in a soft spoken voice as she lifted her head to look at the Thai girl. This question broke the ice between them, creating room for a bond to form. The girl, who had initially shown no interest in the topic, began singing with the Thai girl about the fun things they could do in the snow. Holding hands with both of their heads up high, say aloud: “We will...kick the snow together” (“Snow” by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe). The shift from a cold, detached to a warm, connected mood is depicted as both students' body movements became more spontaneous with a burst of energy.

Emphasis on body language pulls the audience into the world of the performance, deepening their understanding. *Snow* by Tidtaya Sinutoke and Ty Defoe demonstrates how differing perspectives can unfold into mutual understanding through the simple act of human physical interaction. Focusing on body language, animated gestures, and shifting facial

expressions, the musical can capture an emotional journey that words alone couldn't. The Thai girl's obsession with snow and the other girl's nonchalance slowly faded into a shared perception, with them holding hands and saying they would "kick the snow together." ("Snow" by Tidtaya Sinutoke & Ty Defoe).