**Theme:** Family does not end with blood

In life sometimes there are people who feel like family to you but they are not related to you. Because of this I have chosen the theme ‘Family does not end with blood’. This theme is shown in the novel “The Angel Experiment” written by James Patterson, “Supernatural ‘No Rest for the Wicked’” an episode of a tv series directed by Kim Manners, also the films “Australia” directed by Baz Luhrmann and “The Blind Side” directed by John Lee Hancock.

The novel  “The Angel Experiment” is about children who have been genetically modified to have wings. They escaped from the people who experimented on them and now they live together. They call themselves the Flock. At the start of the novel six-year-old mutant child Angel is taken by some half-human/half-wolf creations called Erasers. The leader of the Flock - Max - breaks down when Angel is taken. “It was like I had just lost my little sister. And it was like I had lost my little girl.” This shows the theme of ‘family does not end with blood’ because Angel and Max are not related but Max has practically raised Angel as her own and she cares greatly for her. They are family to each other. They choose to be family but that does not mean that they cannot be as close as blood family. They are just as close, if not closer, than blood families are.  Max and the rest of the bird mutants take flight to rescue Angel. The flock find Angel and manage to rescue her. Angel tells them she overheard things from her captors that could help the children learn where they came from. Based on Angel's information, the Flock flies to New York in search of a place called The Institute. There some of the flock find some information about themselves. After, they head to a safe place to sleep. While the others are sleeping Max states “I almost always go to sleep last - like I have to make sure everyone else is down” This shows my theme because Max feels responsible for the other children. She feels like a mother to them and she has to look after them. When they wake up the younger kids want to fly to Washington, D.C., to try and find their parents. Max goes with them, though she has no information about her own past. She is saddened that she has no information on her own parents but she does not want to lose the only family she has ever had. In this novel James Patterson seems to be suggesting that people who have no family can still find others who can become like family to them. He is hinting that people never have to be alone and that when people are alone it is because they chose to be, not because there is no other choice. This happens in society today when children with no home and who have no family form amazingly tight bonds with others like them and love each other like family.

“Supernatural ‘No Rest for the Wicked’” is an episode of a tv series directed by Kim Manners. In it Dean’s time is up. After making a deal with a demon to save his brother - Sam’s - life he only has thirty hours until the end of his life and eternity in hell. Bobby locates the demon Lilith in New Harmony, Indiana. The boys try to leave without Bobby but he catches them trying to sneak off and says “Do I look like a ditch-able prom date to you?” This shows the theme ‘family does not end with blood’ because the boys were trying to keep Bobby out of danger but he cared about them too much to just let them run into danger alone. The brothers and Bobby head to New Harmony still arguing. Dean says to Bobby “This isn’t your fight” and Bobby replies “The hell it isn’t”. This shows my theme because Bobby will not just sit back and do nothing when he could be helping Dean and Sam save Dean’s life. He does not want to lost someone who is like a son to him. Dean and Sam are like family to him and he does not want to lose either one of them. The boys and Bobby arrive in the neighbourhood where Lilith has possessed a young girl. Sam and Dean they find that her house is protected by a great number of demons and Bobby goes to deal with them. This is like Max in “The Angel Experiment” because in the novel the children depend on Max to lead them and protect them. This also shows my theme because the boys trust Bobby to deal with the threat. The boys break into the house in order to destroy Lilith. However inside the house they find they are no match for her. Lilith sets her hell-hounds on Dean and they tear him apart. With the character Bobby the writer seems to be suggesting that even if a person is not family, they can still care about you as much as blood family does and will do everything for you. They seem to be trying to make the audience notice how important a bond like that is to some people. This is relevant to society today because when someone is in trouble their families are willing do nearly anything to help them. The characters Max in the novel “The Angel Experiment” and Bobby in “Supernatural ‘No Rest for the Wicked’” were very similar, as they were both trying to save someone who is like a child to them from a fate worse than death. The authors of these two texts seem to be saying that parents (even unofficial parents) will always try to save their children, especially in matters of life and death.

The film “Australia” directed by Baz Luhrmann also shows the theme ‘family does not end with blood’. Lady Sarah Ashley travels from Britain to northern Australia. Sarah and her husbands man, Drover, reach Faraway Downs Farm, to find that her husband is dead. Nullah, a coloured child, tells her that Fletcher is stealing her cattle for King Carney. She fires Fletcher and together with Drover, Nullah and a group of employees, she rides to take the cattle to sell to the army. When Nullah nearly falls off a cliff Sarah saves him and says to him “You’re safe. You’re safe with me”. This shows the theme of ‘family does not end with blood’ because Sarah Ashley feels very protective of Nullah and she is starting to see him as her own child even though he is not. This is similar to “The Angel Experiment” because, like Max, Sarah Ashley also saved a person that was like her child from a horrible fate. After that Sarah manages to get her cattle to Darwin and she sells her cattle to the army instead of letting them buy King Carney’s cattle. While there Fletcher tries to use Nullah to force Sarah into selling her land, Sarah refuses. After her conversation with Fletcher she goes to find a doctor to discuss adopting Nullah “He’s is a little boy. He needs someone to look after him” This shows my theme because Sarah Ashley feels like Nullah is family and she wants to become his family so that she can care for him. She does not care that he looks different to her. She finds she is unable to adopt a coloured child. When they return to Faraway Downs, Drover leaves to go on another drove. Nullah is taken and goes with the other “creamies” to an island outside Darwin. Sarah is willing to now sell her land to get Nullah back. This shows me that people will go to great lengths to help those that they consider family, they will even do things that they would not even consider doing in other circumstances. The Japanese bomb Darwin before Sarah can sell her land and everyone in Darwin is evacuated except the children on the island. Drover returns and saves the children. Drover, Nullah and Sarah are reunited and return to live in Faraway Downs. The director seems to want the audience to consider that if you are kind to someone and if you care about them then they will probably return that feeling . Also that people will go against what society thinks is right for those close to them. This is shown in society today as people are caring less and less about colour and different coloured people are becoming family to each other and it is not seen as a bad thing. A notable similarity between the two texts “Supernatural ‘No Rest for the Wicked’” and “Australia” was that both Sarah Ashley and Bobby unofficially adopt boys who they felt needed to be protected and they wanted to protect them. The authors seem to be suggesting that you do not need to be officially connected to someone to be their family, you can be family to someone without officially adopting them or being adopted. They seem to be implying that the bonds between people who feel like family are just as strong and unbreakable as the bonds between people who are blood family.

The film “The Blind Side” directed by John Lee Hancock is based on a true story and also connects to the other three texts through the theme ‘family does not end with blood’ Seventeen year old [Michael Oher](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm3775845), a large black boy, grew up in a poor part of town. He sleeps anywhere he can. Due to Coach Cotton's belief that he would be an asset to the school's football program, Michael is accepted into Wingate Christian School, despite his terrible academic scores. Realizing that he is homeless, Leigh Anne Tuohy, mother of Wingate students, Collins and S.J., invites Michael to stay in her home for the night. However night extends itself into several nights, and then several weeks. The Tuohy’s begin to treat Michael like one of the family. This is similar to what happened in “Australia” as in both these films a white woman decided to take care of a coloured boy who needed their help even though others did not approve of their actions. In Leigh-Anne’s case, she faced opposition from her friends, while Sarah Ashley was judged by all the white people in Darwin. Both women ignored the judgement of others. This showed me that they take care of the boys because they care and it is what they believe is right. When Leigh Anne asked if Collins if she was okay with Michael staying, Collins says to Leigh Anne that she does not mind and “Don’t worry about S.J. He likes all the attention. He introduces Michael as his big brother.” This shows the theme ‘family does not end with blood’ because S.J. sees Michael as his brother even though they are not related by blood. Leigh Anne wants to help Michael fulfill his potential, which includes giving him opportunities like what Coach Cotton initially saw in Michael as a potential left tackle. Although there are problems, such as Michael's poor academic skills. Leigh Anne asks Michael if he wants to become a part of their family by letting her and Sean become his legal guardians “We wanna know if you would like to become a part of this family” and Michael says “Kind of thought I already was”. This shows my theme because even before they offered to become Michaels legal guardians he felt welcome and like a part of their family. Michael manages to get his academic skills high enough to apply for a football scholarship. Michael accepts a football scholarship at the Tuohy's favourite school and when asked why he says "It's where my family have always gone to school" this shows that he feels confident about his future with his new family. The author seems to be suggesting that if you take in someone that needs help then no only do you impact on their life but they can also impact on yours. This is relevant to society today because people do adopt homeless or unwanted children and they care for them as if they were their own children. In return the children see those people as their parents and their family. “The Blind Side” is similar to “The Angel Experiment” and “Australia” as in these texts the child is adopted by a woman who becomes like a mother to the child. With this fact the authors seem to be saying that perhaps women are more likely to look after children in need than men are. “The Blind Side” is also related to all three of my other texts because all of them involve someone older and kind, adopting or looking after children who need their help. This seems to suggest that older people care more for those who are younger and need help.

I believe that if you are lonely that someone can always become as close to you as family.  The novel “The Angel Experiment” written by James Patterson, “Supernatural ‘No Rest for the Wicked’” directed by Kim Manners, also the films “Australia” directed by Baz Luhrmann and “The Blind Side” directed by John Lee Hancock showed me that if you are in trouble then someone will help you if you let them. Those people can become like family to you. Even if you are not related, they can still be your family.