

The Five People You Meet in Heaven teaches us an important life lesson: that peoples' lives are all connected. This book changed my perspective, because it showed me that every action you take could effect another person's life. In this story, a maintenance worker named Eddie is employed at a carnival called Ruby Pier. He dies in an accident, and his soul is sent to heaven. However, before he can actually move onto heaven he must meet 5 people that had some impact on his life. They have to teach him 5 truths or life lessons. On his fifth person, he meets a small girl named Tala. Tala shows Eddie a flashback from when he was in Vietnam. He is setting fire to empty huts when he sees a small shadow move inside one of the huts. Even though he has been assured the huts are empty, he feels compelled to go inside and try to find the source of the shadow. However, while he was running into the hut, his Captain shot him in the leg to keep him from dying. Tala then reveals that the imaginary shadow Eddie saw was actually her, hiding in the hut. Eddie cries over Tala's death, and declares that he has done nothing useful with his life. Tala smiles and says that by maintaining the rides at Ruby Pier, he has saved the lives of many children and has made up for her death. Eddie is then shown the faces of all that he saved, some of them are already dead, and some of them have yet to be born. This ties together the idea that everything comes full circle, and that events that happen before you are born can affect your life. Reading this book helped me discover that the smallest action I take can greatly impact the future for another person. It helps to remind me that even when I am doing a task that may seem insignificant, it may play a great role in the bigger picture. It showed me that all lives are connected, either directly or indirectly. While I am an individual, I am also part of a unit and play an important role overall.