

Sample 2 Carlos Hays I Leonard

M. Decade

CTIL: A Confederacy of Dunces

First, let me say that I had a difficult time reading and understanding the book. The grammar and vocabulary was difficult for me to read at times and I didn't like nor connect to Ignatius at all. There's only been one other novel where I absolutely couldn't stand any of the characters and A Confederacy of Dunces might place second on that list. I like the themes and meaning of this book, but overall, it wasn't an enjoyable experience for me.

The coolest thing I learned while reading this book however was the argument between fate and free will. This is an argument that isn't frequently discussed, whether humans choices and actions are all set in stone and their life cannot be changed, or if humans have choices in the actions that they make and can constantly change their destiny. I know most people don't believe that our lives are set in stone, but, as a Christian I'm taught that are lives are predetermined. Even though we have the choice to choose, it doesn't affect what happens in the long run because our choices were already planned. Hence, our lives are predestined.

It's interesting to see how this book played with the argument. Ignatius believed that all of his non fortune/fortune occurred because Fortuna spun the wheel and his life ended up being pretty crappy at times. But here, at least to me, Ignatius life doesn't seem predestine. I think he's confused fate and free will, and has blurred the lines because he is always making the choice. And the religious doctrine that he chooses to believe in doesn't set his life in stone, so his life isn't predetermine. However, Fortuna is spinning the wheel so we don't know what will happen to Ignatius (this is what Ignatius thinks). To me fate is somewhat involved, but I don't think his life is solely based on fate, I believe that his life is determine by a lot of his own free will/choices and he covers his mistake by saying it was bound to happen. It's a scapegoat.