



Flush

The book *Flush* portrays several different themes throughout the story. The themes of risk, the search for truth, standing up for what you believe in, and support from the community affect more than one character at a time. Some of these themes are displayed on my art work.

The cards and the poker chips on the toilet represent the theme of risk. The main character's, father, Paine takes a risk at the beginning of the book by sinking another character's casino boat because he believes the boat's owner is dumping waste into the ocean. Paine is taking a risk because he knows the consequences of his actions but continues to proceed. When Paine is arrested and put into jail his son, Noah, takes a risk of his own. Noah decides it is his job to save his father by taking matters into his own hands. He is taking a risk by sneaking on to the casino boat to try to prove that his father is right. If he is caught he could suffer the same consequences as his father or worse!

Another theme displayed on my art work is the search for the truth. This is symbolized by the bottle of purple ink and the purple water in the toilet. In the story Noah sneaks onto the casino boat and pours purple ink into each toilet. When all the waste is dumped into the ocean the Coast Guard is able to see that Paine was right.

In addition, a theme depicted in the story was standing up for what you believe in even if it can get messy. In my art work this is represented by Noah floating in the toilet. Noah and his father were willing to do whatever it took to prove to the Coast Guard that the casino boat owner was dumping sewage into the ocean even if it caused trouble along the way. Paine sunk the casino boat and refused to leave jail even though it was difficult for his family financially because he knew it was the right thing to do. Noah risked his life by sneaking onto the boat because he believed in his father.

Finally, the life preserver Noah floats on in the toilet represents the theme of support from his community. Many people helped Noah during his ordeal. In particular, Noah was able to count on the support of his sister Abby, his grandfather, and the unexpected support of Shelly who was a waitress on the casino boat. Each of these people contributed to Noah's success in their own unique way.

Each of these themes in the book *Flush* by Carl Hiassen made this book an enjoyable read.