

**REPRESENTATION OF HUMAN VALUE  
IN ROBERT J. BLAKE'S NOVEL *TOGO***

**A THESIS**

**By:**

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## **APPENDIX**

### **A. Biography of the Author**

Robert J. Blake was born in Springfield, New Jersey, United States 1951. He has lived in New Jersey, California, Australia, and France, and currently lives in Tennessee. He spent his early years in New Jersey before pursuing formal art education at institutions such as the Ringling School of Art in Florida, the Paier School of Art in Connecticut, and the Art Students League in New York. Blake's upbringing in New Jersey, surrounded by a variety of animals and a supportive environment for his artistic endeavors, significantly influenced his creative development.

Where he continues to create and share his artistic works. Robert J. Blake studied at the Paier College of Art, Academie de la Grande Chaumiere Paris, and the Art Student's League New York. Mr. Blake is the author and illustrator of many books.

### **B. His Works**

#### **Books:**

- Akiak: A Tale from the Iditarod (1997)
- Togo (2002)
- Yudonsi: A Tale from the Canyons (1999)
- Fledgling (2000)
- Swift (2007)
- Victor and Hugo (2017)

### **C. Awards**

- Blake's works have garnered numerous accolades, including: [PublishersWeekly.com](http://PublishersWeekly.com)
- Texas Bluebonnet Award (2005) for *Togo*
- Nebraska Golden Sower Award for *Riptide*
- Washington State Children's Choice Award for *Akiak*
- Irma S. Black Award for *Akiak*
- Vermont Red Clover Award for *Akiak*
- Indiana Young Hoosier Award for *Akiak*
- Southwest Book Award for *Yudonsi*
- Michigan Great Lakes Book Award for *Togo*

### **D. Summary of the novel**

Robert J. Blake's novel "Togo," while presenting the heroic tale of a Siberian Husky, actually offers a rich canvas for exploring universal human values. Through the lens of literary psychology, the novel presents a complex shema (conceptual framework) about teamwork, leadership, and tenacity in extreme contexts. One of the most prominent schemes in the novel is the importance of teamwork. The sled team led by Leonhard Seppala is not just a collection of individuals working together physically. They are a unit that is interdependent and supportive of each other. Each dog, including Togo, has a crucial role in the success of the mission. This schema underlines the importance of communication, coordination, and mutual trust in achieving a common goal.

Leonhard Seppala, as the team leader, not only gives orders, but also inspires and motivates his team members. He understands the characteristics of each dog and is able to build strong relationships with them. Seppala's leadership teaches us that an effective leader must have not only technical skills, but also the ability to build team spirit and provide emotional support.

Tenacity is a significant theme in the novel "Togo." Both Togo and his team face nearly impossible odds. Yet, they persist with all their might. The schema of tenacity in the novel teaches us that success often requires consistent effort and determination, even in the face of failure. Through Togo's story, Blake invites us to reflect on broader human values. The novel implies that every individual has potential. Although Togo was initially considered unsuitable as a sled dog, he managed to prove himself to be a valuable asset to the team. No single individual can achieve great goals alone. Teamwork is the key to overcoming complex challenges. A good leader is able to motivate others to achieve a common goal. Failure is an inevitable part of life, but what separates successful people from unsuccessful people is their ability to get back up and keep trying.