I like your post and was like you till I read Sherman Alexie’s ‘What You Pawn, I Will Redeem’ showcases a homeless Indian character, Jackson. The story features a life of a poor Indian boy who is indulging in substance abuse as a means to alleviate the suffering brought about by the loss of culture and heritage, as well as land. The story is an indication of the kind of lives Native Americans faced after they had been replaced in their land by newcomers and concentrated in reservations. Nonetheless, the author does not let the sense of loss dictate the mood in the story, as seen with the occasional use of humor to lighten the mood. In as much as this text is meant to evoke sadness in the readers, it incorporates elements that bring about compassion and understanding. The main character in this story is trying to reconnect with his people and culture, and his grandmother’s dancing regalia is his last link to this, or so he thinks. Jackson deviates from the norms in the manner through which he treats poverty. Unlike common belief, his perspective is not one where poverty is a societal vice that ought to be eliminated, but rather, a way of life in which he enjoys every bit.

‘What You Pawn, I Will Redeem’, is a self-journey in which the protagonist is after reclaiming the culture of his people; hence, his identity. Jackson is in a difficult position, and the story revolves around his efforts to redeem himself and attain his goal of getting back his family’s heritage. The depiction of Jackson as a sad individual who succumbs to alcoholism to alleviate his painful situation is relatable amongst people of his community. Besides extensive substance abuse, Native Americans are frequently plagued with the dilemma of homelessness and unemployment; thus, their poverty-filled lives. The alienation the character suffers is symbolic of the soreness suffered by fellow Native Americans upon the loss of their culture and land . These people were forced to adopt the culture of the newly arriving people, through acculturation. The typical Native American, in the face of cultural, political, and social denial would be Jackson. Jackson is reduced to sharing moments of merry with his fellow Native Indians in the face of calamity. When all they have is lost, they still have each other.