

Saudade as the Recurring Theme in Ruth Ozeki's
A Tale for the Time Being and *The Book of Form and Emptiness*

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ABSTRACT

Ruth Ozeki herself, being a third culture kid, portrays her third novel, *A Tale for the Time Being* and the fourth novel, *The Book of Form and Emptiness's* from the perspective of third culture kids. Ozeki brings out the sufferings like identity crises and alienation they face in society for being a third culture kid. In *The Book of Form and Emptiness*, she explores the theme of grief through the characters Benny Oh and Annabelle with the sudden death of Kenji Oh and in *A Tale for the Time Being*, through Nao's character with the death of Jiko, a Buddhist nun and Nao's grandmother. Ozeki, with the help of Nao and Ruth in *A Tale for the Time Being* and in *The Book of Form and Emptiness* through Benny Oh, Annabelle, Aleph/Alice

and Bottleman explores nostalgia. This paper explores the theme of *saudade*, identity crisis and its effects in the life of the specific third culture kids of Ozeki's novels.

Keywords: Saudade, Identity crisis, Third culture kid, Death, Nostalgia, Alienation, Grief.
