Theme Essay: Beverley Naidoo’s *The Other Side of Truth*

The theme of any literary work is the base topic or focus that acts as a foundation for the entire literary piece. The theme links all aspects of the literary work with one another and is basically the main subject. The theme can be an enduring pattern or motif throughout the literary work, occurring in a complex, long winding manner, or it can be short and succinct and provide a certain insight into the story. There are a variety of themes present in Beverley Naidoo’s novel, *The Other Side of Truth*. Analyze the themes below and choose three that you find most compelling. Using evidence from the novel, analyze how they are present in the text.

**In this essay, include the following:**

- Three themes from the book
- How are the themes evident?
- How do scenes that exemplify the themes apply to different characters in the book?

**Themes:**

- Internal conflict
- External conflict
- Corruption
- Truth/honesty
- Freedom of speech
- Prejudice
- Racism
- Bullying
- Oppression
- Cultural identity
- Overcoming adversity
Criteria:

1. **Introduction:** Entice the reader into your essay with one of the following
   - Question
   - Quote
   - Metaphor
   - Anecdote

2. **Transitions:** pull the reader forward by restating thesis. (They also help you keep focused—what is your point…)

3. **Evidence – May include:**
   - Introduction of themes
   - Discussion/analysis of themes
   - Character dialog or text quotations
   - Examples of how scenes that exemplify the themes affect different characters in the book
   - Stories that exemplify the theme

4. **Conclusion**
   - Summary
   - Circle back to the beginning
   - Restate and emphasize thesis
   - Further questions to think about

5. **Tight Writing**
   - Active verbs
   - Sentence variety

6. **Formatting**
   - Typed
   - Double-spaced
   - At least five paragraphs
   - At least two pages long
   - 12 point Times New Roman or Arial font
   - Proofread for spelling, grammar, and punctuation.