

Abstract
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The findings of psychiatric studies have shown that amputation yields a plethora of issues that arise when one is trying to cope with such a traumatic experience. Some of the issues – displacement and body images disturbances – are illustrated in Wallace Stegner's novel, *Angle of Repose*, through his character, Lyman Ward, who is an amputee. Stegner utilizes these behaviors to demonstrate how an amputee struggles with dealing with such a devastating loss.

One of the behaviors Stegner illustrates is displacement. In the *Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry/IV*, displacement is referred to as a “mechanism by which the emotional component of an unacceptable idea...is transferred to a more acceptable one” (488). Lyman studies his grandparents' lives to avoid his own; however, in doing so, he hopes to resolve aspects of his own life.

In addition to displacement, Lyman exhibits body image disturbances. In “Psychiatric Consultation for Acute Amputees,” Richard Frierson, et. al, discuss body image disturbances, “Reactions to alterations of body appearance are influenced by the value placed on the lost part...Many patients projected their own disgust with their appearance onto others, thereby reinforcing feelings of isolation and uniqueness” (187).

“It seems reasonable to suppose that all [challenged] persons have derogatory feelings about their bodies; however, such is not the case. Emotionally healthy and [challenged] persons have no body image disturbances” (*Comprehensive* 1137). So if Lyman is able to adjust and heal emotionally through learning about his grandparents, in turn, he may ultimately become an emotionally healthy individual and resolve his displacement and body image disturbances.