People can benefit from your pain. It is indeed possible and happens more often than you think. Individuals can benefit from other people’s adversity, however not everyone in the process can be happy. It’s like a “food” chain. Of course, this may seem cruel, which it is, but nothing can be done about it. Let’s start from the people who benefit and are at the top of the chain or the ones who can benefit the adversity.

Many people have benefitted from adversity as a “predator” or “inflictor” of adversity. They are at the very top of the adversity “food” chain. A big historical example would be the European explorers that taken place around the 1600s. The explorers explored their land and explored all around while the Natives were timid and scared. They killed many of them and that had benefitted the Europeans, because they could explore without the Natives lingering around them and could claim the land for themselves. A group of Indians in North America called Mississippian Indians had lasted from 900 AD to 1600AD, but population decreased shortly after European explorers settled in. The European explorers had obviously benefited like the previous explorers. They had no one to bother them while conquering and exploring the land.At another point in history, another group of Natives called the Wauroni Tribe’s land had been invaded by other explorers whom were actually the first Amazon explorers. The explorers were merchants whom were looking for new resources and looking for trade. The Merchants had destroyed their villages and killed many children. Even worse, most even raped their women and took the men in for slaves. The merchants, like the European explorers, had benefitted, because now they had no one in the way. Even today, the Wauroni Tribes are facing adversity and someone is benefiting. The Chevron Oil Company, at the top of the food chain, caused the Wauroni Tribe adversity and they are benefiting by this adversity, as any one at the top of the “food” chain would, because they get what they need, oil. Another situation would be located in more recent, but oddly fictional pieces. In the piece, “Flowers for Algernon”, a 37 year old man named Charlie Gordon who is mentally challenged is in a lab, where he thinks he is unintelligent. Because of this, he is willing for the lab to do any experiments on him that may give a possibility of being smart. After a brain operation, he gradually becomes smarter, but his old friends avoid him, and in the end, he gradually falls back into where he was previously, and on each journal entry he wrote, you can see that he begins to suffer and break down and is fully aware of it, however after he is back to normal, he doesn’t remember a thing. Science, the one on the top of the “food” chain, had benefited from Charlie’s difficulties, before and after the brain surgery, because Science now had more information and proven results of the experiment. Before, Charlie thought he was unintelligent and said repeatedly he wanted to be smart (Page 221 in “The Language of Literature” textbook, progress report one, Charlie writes, “Miss Kinnian says maybe they can make me smart. I want to be smart”.).This made him willing to be tested on, which benefited Science, because now they had a subject they could test their experiment on. The after effects were beneficial, because it added to information about the experiment and proven that this would not work for others. Clearly, Science benefited in every way of this piece. In another more “grown-up” realistic piece was a physiological-help book called “Outliers” by Malcolm Gladwell, it had stated that the outliers, the amazing, wonderful people such as Bill Gates and Bill Joy, had opportunities that they were born with or were lucky enough to encounter. He restates this in both chapter one and two. The outliers benefit, because the adversity leads them to become outliers. Many people can benefit from adversity, however what about the ones who are not benefitting?

People can benefit from adversity as stated previously, however not all can benefit from this adversity. In the previous example of the Early European explorers crossing the Native’s land, the natives did not benefit from them crossing their land, because they were the ones who were facing adversity. These people who are low in the “food” chain would be called the “prey”. They are being “attacked” by the “inflictors” or “predators” and because of that, they face adversity. The Natives faced adversity, because the foreign invaders had invaded their land, and even worse, in some cases had killed their many of the villagers and burned down their village. The Mississippian Indians were obviously not benefiting from the adversity, because they were being enslaved. The Wauroni Tribes had not benefited, obviously, by the merchants whom had entered freely into their land. They had raped their women, destroyed their village, killed many children, and like the old Natives, enslaved their men. A much more recent problem would be considering the oil issue in Ecuador whereas the Wauroni, once again, are not benefiting at all and they are not benefiting whatsoever. In our fictional pieces that young readers may have read before, Flowers for Algernon, we stated that Charlie was not benefiting. In the beginning, he faced adversity, his mental illness, but he had potential and motivation, which benefited Science, and had also benefited Charlie, because he thought it would make him smarter, however after the experiment, he became smart, but became hurt that many of his “friends” didn’t want to socialize with him anymore, which did not benefit him, but benefitted science. When Charlie started to break down after the experiment, it caused him adversity and even more pain; it was not at all what he wanted before, however it had benefitted science, the one at the top of the chain. On page 243 Charlie, in his deteriorating state, is still conscious about his previous state of being a genius and even states how he had gotten angry when someone didn’t belie he was a genius. It says, “He smiled when I told him I used to be a genius. He talked to me like a baby and he winked at Mrs. Flynn. I got mad and chased him out because he was making fun of me the way they all used to do”. The book,” Outliers”, is odd case, because the benefiter is also the victim; there is not direct non-benefiter, except maybe the people who envy the outliers or were not lucky enough to get the opportunities, but that is not directly linked together. Let me further explain by confirming, yes the outliers had benefited from adversity, but they had benefited from their own adversity. The opportunities had caused the outliers, like Bill Gate and Bill Joy, to face adversity, which we had stated before, meaning the opportunities were at the top of the food chain, which doesn’t make sense, because how do opportunities benefit from this? Well, they don’t! The outliers had to face adversity, making them at the bottom of the food chain; however, as mentioned previously, later on, they became actual outliers, because of the difficulties, so they had also suffered. As you can see, not all people can benefit from this adversity and some people can be seriously hurt such as Charlie or the Natives.

As stated before, People can benefit from the difficulties from others, however not everyone can be happy at the same time. It is indeed a cruel and terrible thing, but there is nothing we can do to even it all out and have everyone happy. We can push away the Oil company, however where will they get their oil, now? The scientists could have not experimented on Charlie, but who would they experiment on now, and wouldn’t Charlie been sad the fact that they didn’t choose him? As you can see, it clearly cannot all be equal. Though, this may seem terribly sad and you may want to stop it, but this is how it really is; this is how our lives really are, and there may be almost nothing that can stop it.