



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Home: The Blueprints of our Lives

His Parent's Love



Clarity and Focus

A central idea is presented in the introduction that addresses the mood of the memoir, yet the focus wanes when the mood identified shifts from "loving" to "happy."



Development

While some evidence from the text is referenced, only one specific detail is quoted that connects to the "loving" mood ("Passionate Cuban music...in our warm home"). Support for the "happy" mood is offered as general speculation without evidence from the text.



Organization

Organization is ineffective (no paragraph breaks), and the introduction and conclusion can be recognized only in the statement (and restatement) of the thesis. Attempts at transitions are made ("also," "Another reason"), but their use is inconsistent.



Language and Style

Word choices are largely generic ("the way he was talking," "cooking and holidays and stuff," "meant alot") which contributes to the informal style. Sentence structure is basic and repetitive.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Home: The Blueprints of our Lives

His Parent's Love

The title of the story is Home by Narciso Rodriguez. The mood I think in the story the author gave was loving because of the way he was talking about his life. Narciso Rodriguez's parents immigrated from Cuba to America. They left everything behind so that Narciso had a better life. The parents used to live in a one-room apartment for one year but when Narciso was born they moved into a three-room apartment. I think the parents try to make the house as Cuban as can be with their cooking and holidays and stuff so he would know about it. He said "Passionate Cuban music (which I adore to this day) filled the air, mixing with the aromas of the kitchen. Here, the innocence of childhood, the congregation of family and friends, and endless celebrations that encompassed both, formed the backdrop to life in our warm home". The author's memories were important to him and meant a lot to him. I also think the author was happy because he has friends, a nice house and a nice family. Another reason why I think he was happy is because he is now in America but still around his Cuban culture. His parents put him in America I think because they wanted to start a family and they were very loving. That is why I think that happy and loving is the mood of the author in this memoir.