

Teacher-Modeled Essay Sample: Summary

<p>In [text], [author] [summary word] [main idea]. Summarize key information in 1-2 sentences. Introduce 1-3 key ideas addressed in the original text.</p> <p>In the novel, <i>The House on Mango Street</i>, Sandra Cisneros tells how a young Chicana struggles to find her identity in a multicultural society. In a series of vignettes, Cisneros explores various themes related to identity, including economic status, gender and language. Throughout the short, poetic snapshots, Esperanza matures as a young woman and develops as an emerging writer.</p>	<p>Notes:</p> <p>Synthesized 3 central themes from all vignettes.</p>
<p>One [topic, idea, subject] the author addresses is [topic one]. Explain first idea in 1-3 sentences.</p> <p>One subject Cisneros addresses is how growing up in a poor community shapes her identity. When Esperanza’s family moves from an apartment to a small, run-down house, she is clearly unhappy with her cramped living conditions. “Everyone has to share one bedroom...(5).” After feeling ashamed about her new house, Esperanza vows to leave Mango Street one day to find “a real house” (6). The dream of having her own house links the short sketches together in the novel.</p>	<p>Developed one example to support the topic sentence.</p>
<p>Another [topic, idea, subject] the author discusses is [topic two.] Explain second idea in 1-3 sentences.</p> <p>Another topic that the author discusses is gender roles and identity. Esperanza observes that most women in her neighborhood are bound by oppressive “ball and chain” (88) marriages in a male-dominated society. After a traumatic experience, Esperanza decides to repress her sexuality and wage her “own quiet war” (89) by focusing exclusively on her writing.</p>	<p>Omitted details regarding the traumatic event.</p>
<p>In addition to [topic one] and [topic two], the author also [summary word] [topic three]. Explain third idea in 1-3 sentences.</p> <p>In addition to economics and gender, Cisneros also addresses the powerful role that language plays in society. Esperanza observes people around her who feel alienated because they can’t communicate effectively in English. A witness to the social isolation inflicted by language, Esperanza is determined to learn to speak and write English well in order to determine how own destiny.</p>	<p>Paraphrased general concepts related to theme of language.</p>
<p>Restate the thesis in other words. Revisit main points in 1-2 sentences.</p> <p>A powerful theme in this coming-of-age novel is how a young girl tries to understand herself in a diverse community. At the end of the book, Esperanza knows that she has a future as a writer away from Mango Street. Nevertheless, she realizes how her experiences have impacted her identity, and how Mango Street has become an integral part of who she is.</p>	<p>Spiraled back to the main idea.</p>

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In [text], [author] [summary word] [main idea]. Summarize key information in 1-2 sentences. Introduce 1-3 key ideas addressed in the original text.

In the short story, *The No-Guitar Blues*, award-winning author Gary Soto tells a poignant story about Fausto, a young Mexican-American boy, who experiences the negative consequences of telling a lie. In his attempt to become a rock musician, Fausto decides to work odd jobs to earn money to buy a guitar. When he realizes that his earnings trickle in slowly, he comes up with an idea to earn money fast. Through Fausto's experience of telling a lie, Soto explores several aspects about lying in general.

Examples of omitted details:

One [topic, idea, subject] the author addresses is [topic one]. Explain first idea in 1-3 sentences.

One idea about lying that Soto discusses is that a falsehood might result from an honest intention. Even though Fausto's family does well economically, they don't have a lot of surplus income for extra items. When Fausto asks his mother for a guitar, she replies, "Honey, a guitar costs a lot of money...but we'll see" (57). Initially, Fausto tries to go through the proper channels by asking his mom for the guitar before opting to tell a lie.

Los Lobos rock band on t.v.

Another [topic, idea, subject] the author addresses is [topic two.] Explain second idea in 1-3 sentences.

Another idea about dishonesty in this story is the concept of free will. When Fausto finds an obviously well cared for dog with an address on its collar, he decides to make his fantasy a reality. "At that moment, a light came on inside Fausto's head" (59). This is the moment that Fausto makes the conscious choice act on his idea. In order to get a reward, he takes the dog to its rich owners and says that he found the lost near a dangerous freeway.

Fresno orange Roger (the dog's name)

In addition to [topic one] and [topic two], the author also [summary word] [topic three]. Explain third idea in 1-3 sentences.

In addition to original intent and free will, Soto also describes the power of guilt in this story. After receiving his substantial reward, Fausto walks up the street "like a zombie," feeling terrible about having lied to the kind people (60). Overcome by guilt, Fausto donates the money to a good cause and forgets about buying a guitar.

\$20 reward church

Restate the thesis in other words. Revisit main points in 1-2 sentences.

Through experiencing the detrimental aspects of deceit, Soto shows how important it is to do the right thing. Even though some lies might begin innocently enough, we have the free will to choose our actions. In this story, Soto reminds us how awful it feels to hurt innocent people by not telling the truth.

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In the fable, “The Ant and the Grasshopper,” Aesop tells a story about a grasshopper who learns the importance of hard work. First, a grasshopper sees an ant working and asks him to stop and talk awhile. Then, the ant returns to work in order to store food for winter. Finally, the grasshopper realizes that it is important to prepare for the future.