

The Karate Kid Essay

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In literature authors tend to write stories with happy endings and character’s having dreams, that come true. In the short story **The Karate Kid**, by Gary Soto, the main character Gilbert Sanchez has a dream of becoming the karate kid. Gary Soto chose to twist the story up a bit. Instead of Gilbert’s dream coming true, Gilbert realizes karate wasn’t for him. The text teaches that sometimes in life you may dream of something but it may not come true, because karate wasn’t helping Gilbert, two karate was boring, lastly karate was hard.

One reason why, sometimes in life dreams may not always come true is because karate wasn’t helping him. This is important because, he wanted to face his own challenges. One example is, before Gilbert’s second battle with the Heat, Gary Soto says, “nothing can save him but the U.S Army.” I would expect someone who takes karate would at least do one punch or kick. This proves that, Gilbert’s karate lesson’s weren’t helping. To add on to that during his fight he wasn’t using his karate skills. An example is that, “The blow sent Gilbert the ground, where he stayed with his eyes closed until recess was over.” He was too afraid to get back up. The technique Gary Soto uses is, revealing actions. This is important because, karate wasn’t even helping him be braver. It may be true that, he was brave to tell the Heat to go to the back of the line but, that courage was coming from the movie not karate. I can’t blame him that he can’t fight because his instructor is one of the problems. Mr. Lopez didn’t care to help them become better students. One example is, the instructor would, “gaze out the window” or he would “ignore him and the other boys” This is important because, nobody was encouraging Gilbert to follow his dreams. Neither are they trying to help him accomplish it. But still Gilbert was a motivated character.

Another reason why, sometimes in life dreams might not come true is because, karate was boring. In other words, he didn’t enjoy it. One example is, that “The next week was pretty much the same thing.” You might have thought after that week something was different but, “By the end of the month Gilbert was bored to tears.” In other words everyday they did the same thing. Another example is, Gilbert was so bored doing karate that, “During dinner that night a smiling and a very happy Gilbert told his mom that the studio was closing” The technique Gary Soto uses is tone to show the characters feelings. This proves karate was boring.

The last reason why, sometimes in life dreams may not go as planned, is because karate was hard for him. Gilbert expected karate not to be so hard but he made a horrible assumption. One example is, “But when it was time to do a basic drill he was at a loss.” This shows that Gilbert had a long way to go. Not only was it hard, he was confused. “He looked out the corner of his eye and saw the other kids moving their arms in different patterns.” Another example why karate was hard was because, “His shoulder was sore.” Not only that but “the bottom of his feet were blistered” This proves karate wasn’t really for Gilbert.

Gary Soto wanted to write a unique story. Most authors write stories with happy endings. For example maybe of a girl who dreams to become a princess and in the end does. One of the messages Gary Soto is trying to give is even when you try hard to accomplish a dream, it may not. The main character Gilbert was a very motivated character, but his dream did not come true. I learned to think before you dream that was the mistake he made. In life, even when you put a lot of effort into your dream there is a chance it may not come true, one karate didn’t help him, two it was boring, three it was hard. Gilbert learned that he was misled by the movie.