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The White Umbrella

The White Umbrella, by Gish Jen, is a story about a Chinese family trying to keep their traditional Chinese culture. When the narrator wants a white umbrella for Christmas from her mother, the narrator starts having no appreciation towards her family, especially her mother. The narrator starts slowly having less and less appreciation towards her family.

One way the author conveys the theme of the story is through the title. The title of the story, "The White Umbrella", represents it is most likely in the story and it would play an important role throughout the story. Later at the end of the story the narrator would be in the cold rain waiting for her mother, came out the music instructor with the white umbrella and a blanket. The narrator says, "I wish you were my mother." Then instantly regrets it. Later on in the story, she finds out that there is nothing more important than her own family.

The author also conveys the theme through the main character's problem. The narrator's problem is that she doesn't want anyone to know that her mom is working because she thinks that she HAS to work and doesn't notice yet that she wanted to work to get her own money. At the narrators music class, she was given the white umbrella she has wanted for awhile. When her mother got into a crash, she realizes to start caring more for her family and not the umbrella. Then the narrator threw the umbrella down the sewer drain and it's gone forever.

The author of the story, "The White Umbrella" conveys the theme of the story by showing more sympathy from the narrator at the end of the story, when her mom crashes her car. The narrator tries to be more like other people than the person she actually is. A lesson that the narrator learned is that you should be yourself and no other. The narrator thought that her mom was dead. At that very moment, she realized to show appreciation to her family and not other things that she doesn't have at all.

2

	Development of Ideas	Organization	Clarity of Language	Language and Conventions
4	The response addresses the prompt and shows effective and comprehensive development of the controlling idea using text-based evidence, clear and convincing reasoning, and/or description.	The response demonstrates coherence and clarity, a logical organization that includes an introduction and conclusion, and a logical progression of ideas.	The response establishes and maintains an effective style, including precise language, descriptive words and phrases, transitional words and phrases, and domain-specific vocabulary.	The response demonstrates a command of standard English conventions consistent with effectively edited writing.
3	The response addresses the prompt and shows effective development of the topic using text-based evidence, reasoning, and/or description.	The response demonstrates some logical organization and includes an introduction and conclusion.	Some descriptive words, as well as some linking words and phrases, are used to express ideas with clarity.	The response demonstrates a command of standard English conventions, although there may be some minor errors in grammar and usage.

	Development of Ideas	Organization	Clarity of Language	Language and Conventions
2	The response addresses the prompt and shows some development of the topic but fails to use text-based evidence, reasoning, and/or description.	The response demonstrates little logical organization and includes either an introduction or a conclusion.	Few descriptive words, as well as a few linking words and phrases, are used and ideas are not expressed as clearly as possible.	The response demonstrates a command of standard English conventions, although there are major errors in grammar and usage.
1	The response does not directly address the prompt, shows no development of the topic, and fails to use text-based evidence, reasoning, and/or description.	The response demonstrates little logical organization and fails to include either an introduction or a conclusion.	No descriptive words or linking words and phrases are used and ideas are not expressed with clarity.	Errors in grammar and usage create confusion of meaning.
0	No evidence of the ability to write a literary analysis.			

Parent Explanation Literary Analysis

6th grade

Score 3

This essay received an overall score of 3. The writer addresses the prompt and shows effective development of the topic How does the author convey the theme in "The White Umbrella?". The essay has evidence, however, the reasoning for the evidence could have been explained better and the author could vary the beginning of each paragraph. The response demonstrates a command of standard English conventions, although there are a few mistakes.