

## Theme in *The White Umbrella*

*The White Umbrella* by Gish Jen is a story about a Chinese American girl that was at piano practice and wanted a white umbrella when she was waiting for her mother to pick her up. She wanted the white umbrella because all of the popular girls have one and she wants to be popular. The piano teacher gave her the umbrella and waited for her mom. When her mom got there, they got in the car and when they were driving they got into a car accident. She thought her mom was dead and she started crying. Then she realized that she wasn't dead then she threw away the white umbrella. The theme of this story is that you should be thankful for what you have and don't let a physical possession (the white umbrella) take over who you love (her mom). The author conveys the theme through the main character's conflict, the lesson she learns, and the story's title.

The title also relates to the theme. The main character thinks that the white umbrella will make her popular but soon realized that a personal possession can't really change how people think about you. It also tells us the the white umbrella might be a big thing in the story and might give us a clue on what's it's about and that it might be important for the main character. The main character really wants the umbrella because she thinks that it will make her popular like the American girls. "I stared at the umbrella. I wanted to open it, twirl it around by its slender silver handle; I wanted to dangle it from my wrist on the way to school the way the other girls did." This showed how badly she wanted it and how badly she wanted to be like the other girls.

Another way the author conveys the theme in *The White Umbrella* is through the narrator's conflict. The narrator wants to be like all the American girls at her school but she feels like she doesn't fit in because she's Chinese American. She realizes that all of the American girls have white umbrellas and so she thinks that she will be popular if she got one. So when she got one she was really happy and then they got in the car accident and she realized that life could end any minute. The narrator said, "I thought you were dead,' I said, starting to cry.'I thought you were dead.'" She also realized that you shouldn't have a physical possession take over who you love and that being popular doesn't really matter, your family is more important.

At the end of the story, the narrator realizes that she should be thankful for what she has and that she shouldn't let a physical possession take over who she loves. She also realizes that she should stay with her culture and focus on who she is and not who she wants to be. The

author conveys the theme through the main character's conflict, the lesson she learns, and the story's title.

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	<b>Development of Ideas</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Clarity of Language</b>	<b>Language and Conventions</b>
<b>4</b>	The response addresses the prompt and shows <u>effective and comprehensive</u> development of the controlling idea using <u>text-based evidence, clear and convincing reasoning, and/or description.</u>	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.
<b>3</b>	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.

	<b>Development of Ideas</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Clarity of Language</b>	<b>Language and Conventions</b>
<b>2</b>	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.
<b>1</b>	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.
<b>0</b>	No evidence of the ability to write a literary analysis.			

**Parent Explanation Literary Analysis**

**6th grade**

**Score 4**

This essay received an overall score of 4. The writer addresses the prompt and shows effective and complete development of the prompt How does the author convey the theme in "The White Umbrella?". They point out that the theme is conveyed through the title and the narrator's conflict. Grammar is used correctly and consistently.