

# Literature final summaries



Summary of "I Get Born" by: Zora Neal Hurston  
Narrator (author) is born naturally in her home- her mom too weak to care for her. A man came along and cut the chord, and polished up the baby. The grandmother didn't thank the white man. Later, Zora had a tough time walking and learned to walk because of a pig.

Summary of "Harlem" by Langston Hughes  
Langston Hughes about what would happen to dreams when they die. He's challenging members of Harlem and the Civil Rights movement to continue to dream, despite oppression.

Summary of "The Weary Blues" by Langston Hughes  
Narrator is telling the story of a blues piano player who's at first going to set his blues aside, but then says he's miserable.

Summary of "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien  
Men in the military carried a variety of objects. Some sentimental, some standard military issue. Curl lemon killed by a mortar. Ted Lavender gets shot when Lt. Jimmy Cross is looking at pictures of Martha.

Summary of "Facing It" by Yusef Komunyakaa  
Yusef visits the Vietnam War Memorial. Yusef is still alive, imagines his name could have easily been on the list.

Summary of "The Dying Veteran" by Walt Whitman  
A veteran lying in his deathbed wants to return to battle life- where he was at peace. Fought under Washington.

Summary of "The Colonel" by Carolyn Forché  
Everything is plain and tidy in this house, and a man comes back with a grocery sack full of ears. He dumps an ear into a glass- they are trophies and he's grumpy about the advocacy of human rights.

Summary of "Legal Alien" by Pat Mora  
Bi-lingual/cultural has its benefits of writing and speaking. But as the poem goes on, the negatives of never feeling accepted by Mexicans or Americans.

Summary of "Child of the Americas" by Aurora Levin Morales  
The narrator is a Puerto Rican Jew, an immigrant. Has a wide cultural background and is content with it and owns it. History made her and she is

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okay with being a melting pot- for that's what America is

Summary of " Silent Dancing" by Judith Ortiz Cofer  
Narrator discusses her life in America after living in Puerto Rico. Her father is in the Navy and challenges arise

Summary of " Indian Boarding School" by Louise Erdrich  
Native American children are forced to attend boarding schools, and made into 'white'- Green dresses of shame- we feel their pain. Stories of the run-away children that are taking back to a place of oppression

Summary of " Telephone Conversation" by Wole Soyinka  
African man calls about renting or buying a home. The lady that answers is a typical white woman, and is silenced when the man mentions he's black. " how black?" she asks.

Summary of " Federico's Ghost" by Martin Espada  
Boy gives the bird to a tomato field helicopter guy, who sprays pesticides all over him and kills him. The remaining tomato workers rebel and destroy the tomato field

Summary of " I Stand Here Ironing" by Tillie Olsen  
A mother reflects over her daughter's upbringing- the daughter was forced to live in the care of others when her husband left her early on.

Summary of " A Red Sweater" by Fae NG  
Two sisters get together for dinner and discuss their complex family relationship. Their parents moved from China to provide them with a better life and seem to have a tumultuous relationship.

Summary of " Danse Russe" by William Carlos Williams  
Married man does things not typical of a married man, dances around, looks at himself and is happy to be alone in that moment. Self expression

Summary of " The Writer" by Richard Wilbur  
A man has love for his daughter and compares her to a ship- she's at the center of him. He wishes her luck on his voyage, and then compares her to a bird locked in the room. The bird is trying to escape and has troubles, like his daughter's writers block. But the bird escapes through the right window and makes something

The Soul selects her own society" by Emily Dickinson  
The soul selects who it lets in  
Summary of " Othello" by William Shakespeare  
Othello, a military hero, is on the outside for his skin and is convinced of his wife's infidelity. He kills her, Emilia is killed then he kills himself  
Summary of " Kiss of the Spider Woman" by Manuel Puig  
To men, Molina and Valentin, share a prison cell together. After first not connecting, Valentin grows to appreciate Molina and his alternative approach to life. Eventually, Molina is released and killed while trying to deliver a message from Valentin to his revolution counterparts  
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