

# Question and author essay



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Zora Neale Hurston, “ How It Feels to Be Colored Me” Thesis| | “ But I am not tragically colored. There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, nor lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all”| In her thesis she explains that even though people do discriminate against her, she does not feel colored. She states “ There is no great sorrow dammed up in my soul, or lurking behind my eyes. I do not mind at all” to show how she doesn’t care that she’s colored. Being color does not determined who is she is or what she will be.

She doesn’t get depressed that she’s colored. Being colored just describes one single fact about her. | Challenge/ Defense| | “ Sometimes, I fell discriminated against, but it does not make me angry. It merely astonishes me. How can any deny themselves the pleasure of my company? It’s beyond me. ”| DEFEND: These sentences definitely support her thesis because like she said, “ I do not mind all” which expresses the idea that she doesn’t care whether she’s black, white or anything.

The only thing that does bother her is how some people can be ignorant at times and “ deny themselves the pleasure of my company...”| (1) Over statement| | “ But even so, it is clear that I was the first “ Welcome-to-our-state” Floridian, and I hope that Miami Chamber of Commerce will please take notice. ” | The author exaggerates in this sentence making it seem as if no one in the whole state was friendly or welcoming. Like if they were all grumpy and impolitely. | (2) Rhetorical Shift| | “ When I disembarked from the river-boat at Jacksonville, she was no more.

It seemed that I had suffered a sea change”| As I was reading the passage, I notice a rhetorical shift in this few sentences. When the author wrote “...she was no more. ” Makes it seem as if she was giving up on herself as if somehow everything she had just came crumbling down and she was no longer the fun person everyone knew her as. | (3) Simile| | “ But in the main, I feel like a brown bag of miscellany propped against a wall”| The author is trying to describe that at times she does feel black and discriminated against. As if the only thing that makes her is her skin-tone color, but she is wrong. Bharati Mukherjee, “ Two Ways to Belong in America” Thesis| | “ I need to put roots down, to vote, and make the difference that I can. The price that the immigrant willingly pays, and that the exile avoids, is the trauma of self-transformation. ”| As I was reading the passage, I knew this was the thesis because this whole essay talks about how immigrants come here for change, for better opportunities and somehow they also end up changing too. They start become “ citizens” in a way because even though they were not born here they start making differences.

Just like the author said “ I need to put roots down, to vote, and make the difference that I can. ” emphasizes on how immigrants should get involve in how America works. | Challenge/Defend| | “ For over 30 years, I’ve invested my creativity and professional skills into the improvement of this country’s preschool system. I’ve obeyed all the rules, I’ve paid my taxes, I love my work, I love my students, I love the friends I’ve made. How dare America now change its rules in midstream? ”| DEFEND: These words were said from the author’s sister who shows how American at times repays immigrants for their hard work.

Her tone obviously seems hurtful but most importantly she sounds angry. She's surprised America would repay her this way because she has spent her whole life bettering this country but sadly that's how immigrants have to pay in this country. | (1) Parentheticals| | “ But now, with the scapegoating of “ aliens” (documented or illegal) on the increase, and the targeting of long-term legal immigrants like Mira for new scrutiny and new self-consciousness, she and I find ourselves unable to maintain the same polite discretion. | These two words, “ documented or illegal” show how some Americans and even other people refer to immigrants that come to America. Or even at times they call immigrants, “ aliens” to describe how they don't belong here or they shouldn't be here. | (2) Anaphora| | “...I love my work, I love my students, I love the friends I've made. ”| The repetition of these phrases helped me understand why is it that the author's sister was so hurt when the rules in American decided to change for immigrants.

She found it unfair because she had spent most of her life living here, this was her home now, but things were changing. | (3) Personification| | “ America spoke to me – I married it – I embraced the demotion from expatriate aristocrat to immigrant nobody, surrendering those thousands of years of “ pure culture,” the saris, the delightfully accented English. | She explains how she somehow “ fell” for America. She makes America seem like a person, so she gives it life to describe more clearly how some immigrants could also be feeling towards American.

How they gave up everything for this one country. | Dave Barry, “ Turkeys in the Kitchen” Thesis| | “ My point is that despite all that has been said in the past 20 years or so about sexual equality, most men make themselves as

useful around the kitchen as ill-trained Labrador retrievers. ”| Berry really wanted to make his thesis stand out. He kept repeating it throughout his essay but this sentence made it clearer because he compares men in the kitchen to “ ill-trained Labrador retriever” to show and express that men do not work well in the kitchen. Some may try but rarely ever succeed.

In this thesis also tried to use some history knowledge stating that sexuality equality has been going on for about 20 years and he could be right. |

Challenge/ Defend| | “ One more example: If I ever, for any reason, attempt to hear water in a pot, my wife will saunter by, and, very quietly, without making a fuss, she’ll change the water to some other size pot. It makes no difference what size pot I start with: she will change it based on her thousands of hours of kitchen experiences and sexist training, and I will continue to feel like the Kitchen Bozo. | CHALLENGE: In these sentences, the author tries to put some blame for why men don’t really get along with the kitchen because of the woman. He states that somehow the woman feel superior and act like if they know everything. That if things aren’t done their way or by them then the food or whatever it is that they’re making, won’t be any good. He says that it is because of them and their “ thousands hours of kitchen experiences” that will keep making him feel like “ the Kitchen Bozo”.

| (1) Simile| | “ I realize this sound just like Ozzie and Harriet. | The author uses this comparison to show how his marriage is doing so awful, well from his point of view. | (2) Anaphora| | “ I realize this is awful. I realize this sound just like Ozzie and Harriet. I also realize that there are some males out there, with hyphenated last names, who have advanced much farther than Gene and I have...”| As I was reading this essay, I noticed the repetition of the first

phrases in each sentence which emphasizes on how the reader starts to understand in what road his marriage may be going which he does not like and he almost seems so sure that he may start changing some things. (3) Overstatement| | “ It makes no difference what size pot I start with; she will change it, based on her thousands of hours of kitchen experiences and sexist training, and I will continue to feel like the Kitchen Bozo. | In this sentence the author exaggerates saying “ based on her thousands of hours of kitchen experiences and sexist training...” to show some satire. Explaining that women are just so much better than men when it comes to the kitchen. | Nancy Mairs, “ On Being a Cripple” Thesis| | “ The incident spoiled my self-satisfaction. It renewed my grief and fury and terror, and I learned that one never finishes adjusting to MS.

I don't know why I thought one would. One does not, after all, finish adjusting to life, and MS is simply a fact of my life— not my favorite fact, of course — but as ordinary as my nose and my tropical fish and my yellow Mazda station wagon. ”| These sentences clearly and concisely indicate the subject of this essay. They emphasize on how the author did not like the MS, and no matter what she will never like it. Of course, I mean, who would? They also describe all her emotions at the time. However she also states how she learned to cope with it.

She had to accept that the MS was just another “ fact of her life” whether she wanted it or not. She compares adjusting to MS is almost like adjusting to life, no one can really succeed with that because just like MS. You don't really know what life may bring the next day. | Challenge/ Defend| | “ And I had best be patient in the learning since I'll have to do it like it or not. As any

rock fan knows, you can't always get what you want. Particularly when you have MS. You can't for example, get cured. "| DEFEND: The author feels like she's going to have to be patient in this whole process of having MS which she's totally right.

She also explain that " you can't always get what you want" which absolutely shows the reason why this evidence supports the thesis. Since she can't get what she wants, she has learn to confront the MS and just deal with it the best way she can. | (1) Antithesis| | " To escape is nothing. Not to escape is nothing. -Louise Bogan"| This quote was shown in this essay and as the reader I felt compelled to show it and explain what the other may be saying which is that whether you do something or not do it the outcome might be the same. (2) Asyndeton| | " I pushed baby carriages, changed tires in the rain, marched for peace. "| In this sentence normally occurring conjunctions were intentionally omitted to show all of the things she did when she wasn't crippled in a fast pace. It seems as if the author didn't want to pause because when she wasn't crippled she didn't pause. | (3) Ellipsis| | " I think they like me. Unless they're faking.... "| The three last dots at the end of the sentence show how the author was unsure of her own answer so that's why she decided not to finish it because in some way she didn't want it to be true. Stephanie Ericsson, " The Ways We Lie" Thesis| | " We lie. We all do. We exaggerate, we minimize, we avoid confrontation, we spare people's feelings, we conveniently forget we keep secrets, we justify lying to the big-guy institutions. Like most people, I indulge in small falsehoods and still think of myself as an honest person. Sure I lie, but it doesn't hurt anything. Or does it? "| Once I read this, I knew this was the thesis statement. The whole

essay was mainly based on different ways of lying and how they're being used, but these statements emphasize mainly on lying.

Everyone does lie. It could be a small lie like some people may classify them but it still a lie. No one really knows if it hurts anything or anyone because most people think that since it a small lie it won't affect anyone In fact, a lot of people think that it may save them the trouble of getting hurt and make them feel better. As if hiding the truth it's so much easier, but it really isn't. It just makes matters worst. | Challenge/ Defend| | “ As I said earlier, it's not easy to entirely eliminate lies form our lives.

No matter how pious we may try to be, we will still embellish, hedge, and omit to lubricate the daily machinery of living. ”| DEFEND: These sentences definitely support the thesis because no matter what we try to do. We can't really omit lies out of our lives. We will always use them. Either for bad or for good, we will still lie some way or another. Some people may use excuses for it but there is no excuse on why one should lie. However, we still lie no matter what and most of the time we lie just to save ourselves from whatever it is that we're being put against off. | (1) Anaphora| | “ We lie.

We all do. We exaggerate, we minimize, we avoid confrontation, we spare people's feelings, we conveniently forget we keep secrets, we justify lying to the big-guy institutions. ”| The author definitely made this statement plural to show that she knows as well as all of us that we all do lie whether we want to or not. She didn't just make it specific for certain people she made it for everyone to realize our “ lying problem”. | (2) Overstatement| | “ I once tried



going a whole week without telling a lie, and it was paralyzing”| This sentence shows how some people feel at times.

It sounded as an exaggeration as if lying was a need for her or other people, and as sadly as it may be. Some people do think like that. Lying is a need for most of us; it’s what helps us get around in this life. | (3) Rhetorical Question| | “ How much do we tolerate before we become sick and tired of being sick and tired? ”“ When will we stand up and declare our right to trust? ”| These two sentences were questions asked by the author and as rhetorical questions, they are meant not to be answer but I as a reader felt like if I should at least try.

Both deal with how people lie without thinking the consequences, how it is time to “ stand up and declare our right to trust” since nowadays with all the lying going around. We don’t know what or who to believe or even trust. | Judith Ortiz Cofer, “ The Myth of the Latin Woman: I Just Met a Girl Named Maria” Thesis| | “ There are however thousands of Latinas without the privilege of an education of the entree into society that I have. For them life is a struggle against the misconceptions perpetuated by the myth of the Latina as whore, domestic, or criminal. We cannot change this by legislating the way people look at us.

The transformation, as I see it, has to occur at a much more individual level. ”| The whole piece seemed to lead to this very idea of how society views Latina women all over the world. She expresses on how “ for them life is a struggle” because people will always judge them no matter what. In her thesis she states that the way to accept Latin women must “ occur at a much

more individual level” because not everyone will accept the new image of the Latin women. Everyone needs to come at they own pace. Things can’t be rush because if so, then may be things could lead to a much more negative direction. Challenge/ Defend| | “ She ordered a cup of coffee from me, assuming that I was the waitress...That day I read to that woman and her lowered eyes told me that she was embarrassed at her little faux pas, and when I willed her to look up at me, it was my victory, and she graciously allowed me to punish her with my full attention. ”| DEFEND: These sentences support her thesis entirely because just like society, this woman had a stereotype with Latina women. An image that somehow was implanted on her that made her think that all Latina women were somehow the same. She didn’t even take time to ask Judith if she was a waitress. All she did was assume, but as the author stood up for herself this woman felt ashamed that she had been such an ignorant person to just assume things without realizing what was reality. | (1) Allusion| | “ Mixed cultural signal have perpetuated certain stereotypes – for example, that of the Hispanic woman as the “ Hot Tamale” or sexual firebrand. ”| In this sentence the author is trying to show the reader how most Latinas have been compared sexually wise, and how no matter how ignorant and unnecessary this comments may be.

These women will always have to deal with them because this is the idea that has been implanted in most people about them. | (2) Anecdote| | “ We spoke in Spanish, we ate Puerto Rican food bought at the bodega, and we practices strict Catholicism complete with Saturday confession and Sunday mass at a church where our parents were accommodated into a one-hour

Spanish mass slot, performed by a Chinese priest trained as a missionary for Latin America”| This little piece of the essay shows some biographical incidents that happened when the author was young.

She describes how her Puerto Rican family would go to church, the language they would speak, and the food they would eat. She gives the reader a little more inside information of how most Latin families work too. | (3)

Parentheticals| | “ Thinking (foolish me) that she wanted me to autograph a copy of my brand-new slender volume of verse, I went over”| I believe the author puts the parenthesis around these two words to show how naive she was while walking up to this lady. Sherman Alexie, “ The Joy of Reading and Writing: Superman and Me Thesis| | “ A smart Indian is a dangerous person widely feared and ridiculed by Indians alike. I fought with my classmates on a daily basis. They wanted me to stay quiet when the non-Indian teacher asked for answers for volunteers, for help. We were Indian children who were expected to be stupid. Most lived up to those expectations inside the classroom but subverted them on to the outside. ”| This piece of evidence hit me as being the thesis because it covers the whole point of this author’s essay.

It explains how even though most Indians and non-Indians expected the Indians to fail, some wouldn’t accept that and would fight against that stereotype. He places his thesis at the end to show the reasons why he refused to fail at reading and how he refused to be like the rest of the Indians. He wanted to prove them all wrong. | Challenge/ Defend| | “ Those who failed were ceremonially accepted by other Indians and appropriately pitied by non-Indians. I refused to fail. I was smart. I was arrogant. I was

lucky. | CHALLENGE: These sentences seemed to go against the thesis and challenge it because it showed how the author refused to give up like everyone else was already deciding to do. As the author states, “ I refused to fail. I was smart. I was arrogant. I was lucky. ” Shows how determined he was on proving everyone wrong and succeed in life. No matter how many times his classmates or anyone else would put him down. | (1) Anaphora| | “ I am smart. I am arrogant. I am lucky. I am trying to save our lives. | The author could of decided to use this repetition of words to make his point, to sound confident, but to mainly emphasize the purpose of why he goes to little Indian schools and doesn’t give up while trying to help them. | (2) Asyndeton| | “ They wanted me to stay quiet when the non-Indian teacher asked for answers, for volunteers, for help. ”| In this sentence his tone seems very strong; this could be why the author omitted the conjunctions. He did not want to pause; he wanted to go straight to the point to show how some classmates would be so tough on him about being smart, clever, and helpful. (3) Overstatement| | “ Writing was something beyond Indians. ”| This sentence sounded somewhat exaggerated because it seemed as if writing was something Indians could never do, and would never do but he was wrong because somehow he did it. He proved them all wrong and he made it in the “ writing industry”. | Joan Didion, “ On Morality” Thesis| | “ I am talking you want to say, about a “ morality” so primitive that it scarcely deserves the name, a code that has as its point only survival, not the attainment of the ideal good. | As I was reading this sentence, I knew that this was the thesis because the whole essay talks about morality and how “ its point only survival, not the attainment of the ideal good. ” which means that nowadays morality is not anymore about the greater or good or about doing what’s

right. Nowadays is mainly about relic, and about saving one-self before anyone else. | Challenge/ Defend| | “ For better or worse, we are what we learned as children: my own childhood was illuminated by graphic litanies of the grief awaiting those who failed in their loyalties to each other. | DEFEND: This sentence definitely defends the thesis because just when it says “ my own childhood was illuminated by graphic litanies of the grief awaiting those who failed in their loyalties to each other. ” I felt the emphasis on the word awaiting because just like the thesis said that morality nowadays is about survival and this shows that some people are just waiting for other people to fail each other since after all, everyone is looking out for themselves only. | (1) Anadiplosis| | “ What does it mean?

It means nothing manageable. ”| The ending of the first sentence starts the beginning of the next sentence and I’m pretty sure the author did that to make a point and describe that whatever it is that she is feeling is not manageable or being able to take care of. | (2) Detail| | “ As it happens I am in the Death Valley, in a room at the Enterprise Motel and Trailer Park, and it is July, and it is hot. ”| These sentences were written in a very detail form. She starts describing exactly where she’s at and what time of the year it is.

She also describes how the weather is feeling to give the reader a little more sense of a vivid image. | (3) Parentheticals| | (“ Tell me”, a rabbi asked Daniel Bell when he said, as a child, that he did not believe in God. “ Do you think God cares? ”)| This sentence give a little more piece of information to include in the paragraph because the author wanted to make an “ example” out of it since it did belong to topic which was that everything everyone does

or say should somehow pass by your conscience. | Langston Hughes, “Salvation”

Thesis | | “ God had not struck Westley dead for taking his name in vain or for lying in the temple. So I decided that maybe to save further trouble, I’d better lie, too, and say that Jesus had come, and get up and he saved. So I got up. ” | As I was reading this essay, these sentences struck me as the thesis because the whole story was about God and how some people feel that God comes for them to save them as if he calls for them, but no one really knows if this really does happen. Sometimes some people have different beliefs than others or sometimes people just leave it to “ faith”.

I guess in this essay, the author could have had a little more faith or he couldn’t of thought about this so literally, he maybe should of thought of this spiritually. | Challenge/ Defend | | “ But I was really crying because I couldn’t bear to tell her that I had lied, that I had deceived everybody in the church, and I hadn’t seen Jesus, and that now I didn’t believe there was a Jesus any more, since he didn’t come to help me. ” | DEFEND: This sentence talk about how bad he was feeling after making everyone believe that God did call out for him.

He really did take this experience to the heart. He actually thought he was going to hear God’s voice or he was going to see God but since nothing happened, all there was left for him to do was lie. He probably felt even worse since lying is definitely a sin, and he committed that sin in church. |

(1) Metaphor | | “ Then just before the revival ended, they held a special meeting for children, “ to bring the young lambs to the fold. ” | The author

uses this metaphor to show that the young ones were little lost lambs who were trying to be save for god's purpose.

The preacher was trying to lead them to the “ right path” as some would say.

| (2) Polysyndeton| | “ The preacher preached a wonderful rhythmical sermon, all moans and shouts and lonely cries and dire pictures of hell, and then he sang a song about the ninety and nine safe in the fold, but one little lamb was left out in the cold. ”| This sentence almost seems as a runoff sentence where he just keeps going and going with all those “ and” which describe what the people were doing, how they were acting, and the noises they would make. And there is also an irony in this sentence.

Where he says “ but one little lamb was left out in the cold” predicts how one person would be left out from the “ fold” which was him. | (3) Connotation| | “ Still I kept waiting to see Jesus. ”| This one sentence has a lot of emotion to it because Jesus, unfortunately, cannot be seen since he doesn't know exist physically in this earth. For some people he may exist, spiritually or possibly even physically but in this case. This one little boy was expecting to see Jesus, to be call from him and saved but he wasn't. | Audre Lorde, “ The Fourth of July”

Thesis| | “ American racism was a new and crushing reality that my parents had to deal with every day of their lives once they came to this country. They handled it as a private woe. My mother and father believed that they could best protect their children from the realities of race in American and the fact of the American racism by never giving the name, much less discussing their nature. ” | The author talks of how racism really affected

people and how some people would try to be reasonable about this issue even though it was extremely unfair.

These sentences definitely describe how some families would feel about the problem. Like this family, some would try to avoid it as much as possible so they're children wouldn't have to go through it like they did. | Challenge/Defend| | “ I learned later that Phyllis's high school senior class trip had been to Washington, but the nuns had given her back her deposit in private, explaining to her that the class, all of whom were white, except Phyllis, would be staying in a hotel where Phyllis “ would not be happy”, meaning, Daddy explained to her, also in private that they did not rent rooms to Negroes. | DEFEND: This is one example of the racism that would occur back in the day her in America. This absolutely shows how unfair it was for some African Americans to have to deal with this and not be able to say anything about it because that's how things were supposed to work. | (1) Details| | “ My mother had roasted two chickens and cut them up into dainty bite-size pieces. She packed slices of brown bread and butter and green pepper and carrot sticks.

There were little violently yellow iced cakes with scalloped edges called “ marigolds”, that came from Cushman's Bakery”| These details describe what they were going to eat, and how the mom had prepared the food, cutting “ them up into dainty bite-sizes” for the whole family to enjoy and to make it last the whole trip. | (2) Repetition| | “ The waitress was white, and the counter was white, and the ice cream I never ate in Washington D. C. that summer I left childhood was white...”| The author keep repeating the word to emphasize her anger to the unfairness her family was receiving all because



they were not white. | (3) Rhetorical Question| | “ Hadn’t I written poems about Bataan and freedom and democracy for all? ”| Lorde asks this question in a moment of frustration because she is tired of not being treated equal as well as her family. She describes what the poems are that she has written to make a point that the racism should completely stop. |