

Name _____ Class _____

TEACHER COPY: Unit 1 Essay

Answers in blue. To help us ensure assessment security, please do not post or circulate these answers online.

PART 1: Essay Prompt

Directions: Read the essay prompt about “The Stolen Party.”



PROMPT

In “The Stolen Party,” how does Rosaura’s understanding of her relationship with Luciana change? What does this reveal about being an outsider and belonging? Use specific evidence from the story to support your analysis. **[W.2]**

PART 2: Drafting Your Essay

Directions: Draft your essay in the space provided. If you created an outline for this essay in a previous lesson, use it to help you draft. As you draft your essay, be sure to apply the skills you’ve practiced in writing lessons throughout this unit.



One of the difficult parts of growing up is figuring out where we fit in the world. Sometimes we learn hard truths about what makes some people insiders and others outsiders. In the short story “The Stolen Party” by Liliana Heker, Rosaura is invited to Luciana’s birthday party. Rosaura’s mother is a maid in Luciana’s house. Rosaura believes she has been invited because Luciana is her friend, but in the end she learns she was only there to help out. This reveals that differences in class make some feel like outsiders even if they wish to belong.

Rosaura believes that she has a special relationship with Luciana and her family. When Rosaura first finds out she is invited she says, “I’m going because I’ve been invited... And I’ve been invited because Luciana is my friend” (6). The events at the party make Rosaura feel like she is an insider in Luciana’s family. For example, Luciana’s mother, Señora Ines, allows her to do things that other children are not allowed to do. She lets Rosaura in the kitchen but not the other children, because she says that “they’re much too boisterous, they might break something” (17). Señora Ines also asks Rosaura to help serve the hot dogs and pass around the cake. Being treated differently from the other children convinces Rosaura that she really belongs because she is a special friend of the family.

At the end of the party Rosaura finally learns the truth, that she doesn’t really belong. When the party guests are leaving, Señora Ines gives them small favors: bracelets for the girls, and yo-yos for the boys. However, when Rosaura goes to say goodbye, Señora Ines says, “You really and truly earned this... Thank you for all your help, my pet,” and offers her money instead of a favor (64). Señora Ines tries to pay Rosaura, which shows that she does not view Rosaura as a guest. Rosaura understands that she is not a true insider of the

Ines family. She was only invited to the party to work. She is shocked and disappointed because she realizes she does not really belong in this circle of rich people.

Rosaura learns that she was wrong about her friendship with Luciana. At first, she feels like an insider because all the tasks she does for Señora Ines during the party seem like signs of her special friendship. Rosaura's mother tries to tell her that she is still an outsider in Luciana's world, but Rosaura does not believe her because she believes she belongs. It is only when Señora Ines tries to pay her that Rosaura realizes she actually is an outsider. This supports the idea that differences in class can make it hard for outsiders to ever really belong.

Name _____ Class _____

Unit 1 Essay

PART 1: Essay Prompt

Directions: Read the essay prompt about “The Stolen Party.”



PROMPT

In “The Stolen Party,” how does Rosaura’s understanding of her relationship with Luciana change? What does this reveal about being an outsider and belonging? Use specific evidence from the story to support your analysis. **[W.2]**

PART 2: Drafting Your Essay

Directions: Draft your essay in the space provided. If you created an outline for this essay in a previous lesson, use it to help you draft. As you draft your essay, be sure to apply the skills you’ve practiced in writing lessons throughout this unit.



