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What does 'qualifying text' mean?

Our model only processes qualifying text in the form of long-form writing. Long-form writing means individual sentences contained in paragraphs that make up a longer piece of written work, such as an essay, a dissertation, or an article, etc. Qualifying text that has been determined to be likely AI-generated will be highlighted in cyan in the submission, and likely AI-generated and then likely AI-paraphrased will be highlighted purple.

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Scenario Case Study - Assessment 3

Group names & student numbers

Issue identification

Cultural exclusion in early childhood education occurs when children from diverse backgrounds face rejection due to differences in traditions, language, or food, which can lead to feelings of isolation and lower self-esteem. One common example is food shaming, where children with culturally specific meals are avoided or ridiculed by their peers. In the Yale Child Study Center experiment, researchers found that preschool teachers—both Black and white—were more likely to monitor Black boys for misbehavior, even when none occurred, revealing how unconscious biases influence expectations (NPR, 2016). Similarly, when children react negatively to a peer's unfamiliar food, they reinforce cultural bias, making that child feel unwelcome. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC, 2025) emphasizes that early exposure to anti-bias education helps prevent these harmful attitudes from forming. If educators do not actively address cultural bias, marginalized children may struggle with identity and belonging, impacting their social and emotional development.

Script summary

Title: More Than Just Lunch

Duration: ~4-5 minutes

Characters:

- Aditi A child from an Indian/Nepalese background, feels excluded due to her traditional lunch.
- Emma A peer who refuses to sit with Aditi, finds her food's smell "weird."
- Liam Another child who follows Emma and avoids Aditi.
- Mrs. Brown An educator who promotes inclusivity and challenges bias.
- Aditi's Mom Concerned about her child feeling rejected for her cultural food.
- Noah A bilingual child who helps bridge cultural understanding.

Scene 1: Lunchtime at School





- Aditi excitedly opens her lunchbox, revealing her favorite home-cooked meal (curry and rice).
- Emma and Liam react negatively, commenting on the food's strong smell and unfamiliar appearance.
- They move away, leaving Aditi alone and feeling embarrassed about her food.

Scene 2: Aditi at Home

- Aditi tells her mom she wants to bring a sandwich instead of her usual lunch.
- Her mother is saddened but understands, recalling her own experiences of cultural exclusion.
- Aditi expresses a desire to fit in rather than stand out.

Scene 3: The Educator Steps In

- The next day, Mrs. Brown notices Aditi eating alone and asks Emma and Liam why they aren't sitting with her.
- Emma and Liam admit they find Aditi's food "different" and unfamiliar.
- Noah, a bilingual child, jumps in and shares that his family eats similar food, encouraging curiosity.
- Mrs. Brown facilitates a discussion about cultural diversity, helping the children see food as a reflection of identity and family traditions.
- Aditi shyly describes her meal, and Emma expresses mild curiosity, suggesting a food exchange.

Scene 4: Resolution & Reflection

- At home, Aditi happily tells her mom that Emma and Liam sat with her and showed interest in her food.
- Her mother reassures her that sharing and learning about different cultures is valuable.
- The performance ends with a message:
 - "Inclusion begins with understanding. Let's celebrate our differences and learn from each other."
 - o "Food is culture, food is love. Let's make every lunch table welcoming!"





Perspectives and why they are important

In this performance, multiple perspectives highlight how cultural exclusion affects children in early childhood education and how different individuals respond to it. Aditi, the ostracized child, represents the emotional impact of cultural prejudice since she is embarrassed about her ethnic food and desires to conform to the majority so that she would not be rejected. Emma and Liam, her peers, represent unconscious prejudice since they reject Aditi's lunch for no other reason than the fact that it is different, mirroring the manner in which children learn social preferences through exposure and acquired habits. Mrs. Brown, the educator, represents the role of teachers in addressing bias and fostering inclusion, demonstrating how intervention and guided discussions can reshape children's perceptions. Aditi's mother provides the parental perspective, showing intergenerational experiences of cultural exclusion, as she recalls facing similar challenges when she first moved to the country. Noah, the bilingual child, represents cultural bridging, proving that familiarity and peer influence can help reduce bias and create a more inclusive environment.

Theoretical connections

Cultural exclusion in early childhood education, as seen in Aditi's experience, reflects broader issues of bias, identity, and belonging, which require intentional intervention to address. Dewey (1937) argues that democracy in education is where all children have equal opportunity to participate to their full potential but exclusion due to cultural differences contravenes this principle. National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC, 2025) notes that early exposure to anti-bias training culminates in inclusion as children learn to identify and appreciate cultural differences. An experiment carried out by NPR (2016) shows that unconscious biases are initiated early in the preschool stage as teachers—both Black and white—were more likely to watch for misbehavior in Black boys even where there was no misbehavior. Similarly, Aditi's schoolmates shun her food due to implicit cultural prejudice, making her even more isolated. UNICEF Innocenti (2025) notes that fostering equity in school requires educators to bridge the gap between policy and practice so that all children are valued and included.





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