

## IMPRESSIONS

Ok, this might be a bit lengthy but I read your final comment on the essay so I feel compelled to give whatever useful thoughts I could come up with. I like the premise of your essay, your thesis was very strong and focused and sets things up well.

One idea I want to add is that one of the aspects our Professor wanted us to take into account was the idea of a counter-argument someone who is reading our essays could make. To play devil's advocate I'd say that while to you the extensive use of imagery and metaphor may seem over the top and ineffective, to another person those same images might liven up an otherwise fairly dry narrative. Both sides of that coin are valid, just something you may want to consider and perhaps weave into your final paragraph as a nod to a reader that their opinion might differ from your own and have merit.

I also think that the author chose to write things in this manner in order to make the reader think a bit and I admit to having a certain level of uncertainty about some of the statements the narrator makes in the book. One thing I am certain of is that the narrator's "detachment" during her parents' fights is the behavior of someone who has grown up seeing this happen repeatedly.

The core of the essay is solid and you do have a lot of support for your assessment, you just need to do some clean-up and make things flow better. Some sentences should be melded or even cut out and I would suggest that you remove one of those block quotations and replace it with one incorporated into a body sentence just to vary the use of quotes a bit. I am hesitant to actually mark up the essay submitted because it seems like you know exactly what you want to say and just did the rough draft on a very tight time schedule.

I agree with you that the book can definitely be confusing to read and sometimes her metaphors don't really do much to help us get into her head, but perhaps that ambiguity was just what she was aiming for as a way of leaving things a bit up to the reader to decipher. I'd hate to be someone who isn't a native English speaker trying to get thru it.

### Suggestions:

1. Use fewer short statements, merge them into complex sentences.
2. Omit one of those block quotes or replace it with one that is part of a sentence to shorten the length of the paper and make it more concise.
3. Think of the counter-argument and maybe weave it into either a short paragraph or into your conclusion by using an opener such as "while it may be argued that..." and then reinforce your thesis by countering it.

Other than those 3 things I think you're on a good track and have a very solid and well-defined set of ideas you're working with.