

# NBE3UZ **WRAPPED**

## **IB Learner Portfolio**

Fiona Cai

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# Short Stories

Clarice Lispector



Go...



# Group Seminars

## A two-sentence summary of the story

- In Africa a French explorer by the name of Marcel Prete found someone he deemed the 'smallest woman in the world', naming her "Little Flower" and broadcasting his discovery to the world to a myriad of bigoted responses. The city-folks' reactions to the woman's size and appearance is contrasted to Little Flower herself, who simply loved.

## A discussion about the significant symbols and images, along with their meanings Major motifs, imagery, literary devices, and/or style elements

- Contrast between warm love and cold desire
- Contrast between description of "animal" and "human"
- Objectification/dehumanization of Little Flower
  - "Toy", "doll", "dog"

## Character descriptions – traits and proof (-three each character)

- Marcel Prete
  - Persistent
    - Traveled through different parts of Africa to find the smallest person he could
    - Stayed even though he felt uneasy
  - Proper
    - Discomfort at Little Flower's actions that are seen as improper
    - Tries to remain professional in order to hide his discomfort
    - Blushes at his own propriety
- Little Flower
  - Naive
    - Trusting and loving Marcel Prete without considering his intentions
    - Uncaring of others opinions
    - Acts "improperly" according to Prete
      - Smiling at Prete despite his discomfort

## Favorite moments of the story

- "Little flower blinked with love and smiled, warm , small, pregnant, and warm." (Amanda)

Discussion of one theme, using evidence from the text. The theme should be functional enough to be easily converted into a thesis.

- Humans tend to see others who are different from them as below them.
  - The words used to describe Little Flower
  - How Prete's first reaction was to publish a story
    - Money
  - The other people who want to use her
  - Others see her as something to be coveted
  - Prete gave her a name, even though she might have already had one in her own language

## How does the story relate to the collection Family Ties?

- When humans see things that are different or unique we react to them badly
- Outside of our differences, we all feel connected????
- After the smallest woman was broadcasted to the city folk, they all saw her as a exotic creature because of their differences. However, the explorer found a deeper connection with Little Flower after seeing the humanity and warmth in her smile. (Salina)
- Oftentimes, these negative traits are taught through family members and passed down

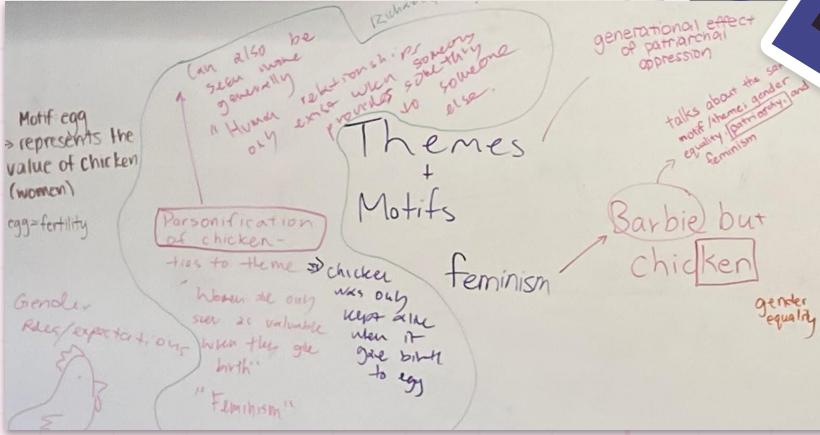
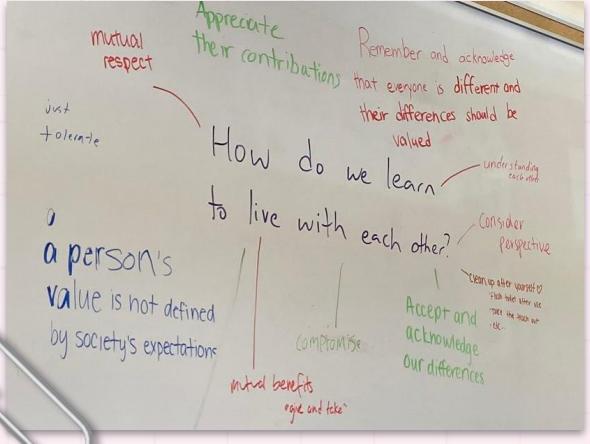
## *What did you learn from this experience?*

- Group think finishes the work much faster
- Other members had very interesting ideas

## *What strategies can you use to improve for next time?*

- Use time in class given to work in group better

# Class Discussions



What learning do you want to take with you to future English courses?

- There are always more than one acceptable opinion or interpretation
- The author usually has a specific theme in mind, making that one "better"

# Compare/Contrast Essay

What do you think you need to improve? Be specific!

- Sticking to a detailed central assertion throughout the essay
- Include multiple sentences to analyze each quote and how they help prove my central idea

Preparation tips for the future

- Practice writing different compare and contrast essays with the given stories and sample guiding questions
- Leave 5 minutes at the end to correct grammar mistakes

## Comments:

While the essay addresses 'alienation', it does not demonstrate a great deal of analysis in the paper beyond what is already known. More nuance and insight is needed in order to attain a higher mark as the paper often reads as summary. Consequently, the comparison between the stories is also more limited in its scope.

Ro  
dynamics, the two stories by Clarice Lispector feature Little Flower, from "The Smallest Woman in the World" and Laura, from "The Imitation of the Rose", and their journey of feeling isolated in an alien world. -In. par.

The element of point of view is used to alienate a character by either narrating their actions with bias

Unclear point of view alienation definition thesis

More summary than analysis

used to portray Little Flower to be almost animal-like. This dehumanization sets the ground for discrimination against her, which leads to the deepest alienation of Little Flower. In "The Imitation of the Rose", the voice of third person limited is used instead, and readers are limited to hearing the thoughts of Laura. This amplifies her thoughts that come with her mental illness, such as when she felt guilty of not VI



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# Essays

Yu Hua



# Notes

领袖

Thesis: "He [Mao] wanted to become the leader of all exploited and oppressed peoples." (pg 27)

Title was only used for Mao until Xi got it in 2017

Mao Swimming (pg 17) beauty standards, mainly too have top off

Mao's lice (pg 18) confidence vs hygiene, they got out and they showed it as pride (public lice)

Cult of Personality

- appearance of love to hide fear
- everyone had to carry the Little Red Book, like a bible
- Loyalty Dance

习近平 - website about his thoughts

Sino-Russian Friendship (Russia and China) Friendship out of necessity

习包子, 2013 US visit, person who made nickname got a two year sentence  
Pooh Bear, '习大大'

Leader of the Oppressed (pg 25)

Censorship

- 2nd way Xi creates cult
- Prisoners must say "long live 习近平" before they eat
- A lot of people get put into jail for small jokes and memes

Transnational Police Stations, 3 in GTA, claims only have police to monitor criminals  
9 Glaceport Crescent

This is my favourite...

- Set of notes from my favourite essay in "China in 10 Words"

Please pay attention to...

- How I tried to leverage my Chinese skills to understand the text better
- Took my own notes although there were similar slides provided

# Disparity Presentation



**Intro**

Thesis: Prioritizing the progression of the country as opposed to individual wants/needs creates disparity which causes suffering and conflict among those who are affected

01

## Juxtaposition

"the urban high-rises shooting up like forests under a gray and murky sky; the thick mesh of expressways, far outnumbering our rivers; the dazzling array of merchandise in shopping centers and supermarkets" (147)

"So China moved from Mao Zedong's monochrome era of politics-in-command to Deng Xiaoping's polychrome era of economics above all." (153)

*What strengths were you able to demonstrate during this task?*

- Communication skills - explaining my ideas to the class
- Collaboration skills - effective communication in a small group of 4

# Creative Response

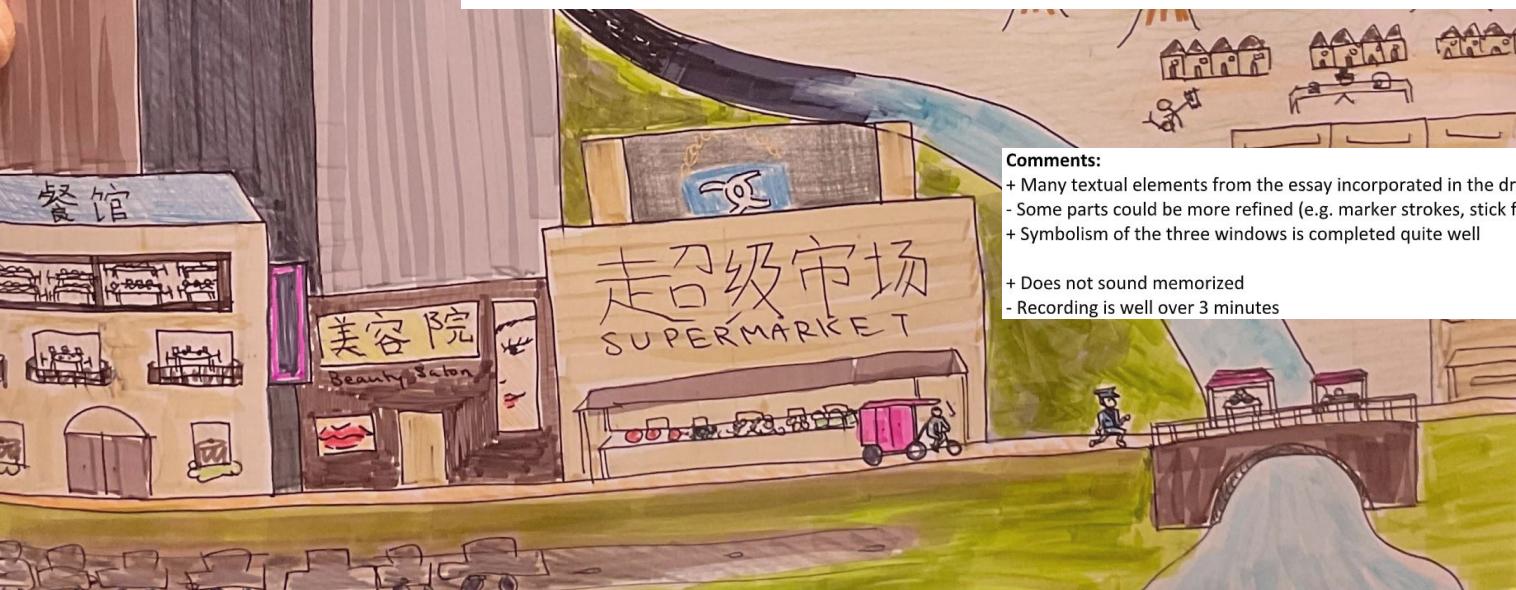
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*Explain the thinking behind how you arrived at your final product*

- Upon reading the essay I visualized a society rather than one scene
- Using contrasting colors, I showed the disparities of society

*If I did it over again, I would...*

- Build this scene (cardboard buildings, plastic trees, paint, etc.)



#### Comments:

- + Many textual elements from the essay incorporated in the drawing
- Some parts could be more refined (e.g. marker strokes, stick figure drawings, cars could be more detailed, etc.)
- + Symbolism of the three windows is completed quite well
- + Does not sound memorized
- Recording is well over 3 minutes



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# Poetry

Marilyn Dumont



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# Annotations

## From ROOM Magazine, an Interview with Marilyn Dumont

"Writing has saved my emotional, spiritual, and intellectual life in a country where I wasn't supposed to exist, let alone thrive. It allows me to sort out the mess of structural inequity, bureaucratic obfuscation, colonial racism, and sexism. It allows a space for my voice and sense of self." Room's 2016 poetry contest judge, Marilyn Dumont talks with Jónina Kirton about writing, identity, race, and politics, and how they intertwine.

Writings

Jónina Kirton (JK): Your first book, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, was just re-released. Originally published in 1996, it won the Gerald Lampert Award. Your most recent book, *Pemmican Eaters*, has been shortlisted for the 2016 Raymond Souster Award. In fact, all of your books have won awards. This is quite the accomplishment and no surprise given the quality of your writing and the timely nature of the themes you pursue. Have you always been a poet? Once you began writing did you have any idea that it would take on such an important role in your life? How has being a poet changed you?

*She was always writing*

Marilyn Dumont (MD): I had no inkling that I was a poet. I was always artistic and wanted to dance, sing, or create visual art. When I began writing in a journal that is all I wanted to do. I later studied poetry, and then took a non-credit course. From this experience, I began dabbling in writing poetry and sent two poems to CV2. They were accepted for publication and that scared me. *Introducing choice of words*

JK: Jennifer Andrews, of Canadian Poetry, said that *A Really Good Brown Girl* "cultivates its own space of in-betweenness." Anyone who has lived in the between-ness of life will find good medicine in this work. When you started writing this book, did you have a theme in mind or did it reveal itself as the collection unfolded?

MD: I just wrote from what was inside me. Sometimes I was surprised by what I discovered and was afraid to make it public. The theme revealed itself the more I wrote.

JK: The collection is so well named. At what point did you know what the title would be? Were there other working titles that you entertained, and if so, what were they?

MD: I can't remember when I decided to name this collection, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, but I was certainly influenced by reading a combination of Aboriginal/African-American women writers.

I don't recall if I had other titles or what they were, because I worked on this collection intermittently for ten years before it was published. Once it was accepted for publication, it took two years to see it in print.

*Global Issue*

JK: There are so many poignant moments regarding identity. In your piece, *Memoirs of a Really Good Brown Girl*, you take us to your first day of school, where you plunge us right into the deep end of skin colour and language.

*Swimming references*

*The Global Issues that best intersect with each of the four FNMI inquiry questions are...*

- How do we learn to live together?
  - Culture, identity, and community
- How do we become good ancestors?
  - Politics, power, and justice
- How do we learn to be human?
  - Culture, identity, and community
- How do we become good relatives?
  - Beliefs, values, and education

# Guided Writing



**Ro** dynamics, the two stories by Clarice Lispector feature Little Flower, from "The Smallest Woman in the World" and Laura, from "The Imitation of the Rose", and their journey <sup>of</sup> feeling isolated in an alien world. —Inc. par.

Unclear purpose of alienation in thesis

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While the essay addresses 'alienation', it does not demonstrate a great deal of analysis in the paper beyond what is already known. More nuance and insight is needed in order to attain a higher mark as the paper often reads as summary. Consequently, the comparison between the stories is also more limited in its scope.

This work shows I've improved...

- My ability to focus my thoughts on the same idea
- The organization and depth of my paragraphs



Comments:

Overall, the essay is strong as you have a clear focus established throughout. More analysis could have been included to explain how settlers are not welcome. This would provide nuance and insight.

the outsiders of their own kind.

"Are Not Welcome", Marilyn Dumont describes

the dwindling nature in the prairies with an

emphasis on how there are no geese in

the area. The idea conveyed is that the

settler settlers at the prairies are not

welcome. This representation is shown thro

5.

What aspects are you most proud of and why?

- The minimal spelling and grammar errors
- My determination in finishing 4 mock essays

# Key Takeaways

## Strengths

- Time management
- Seeking feedback and clarification
- Working during given class time

## Areas to Improve

- Confidence with my creativity
- Presenting without a script

# 192+ Hours

Spent on English at School and Home

# 12,500+ Words

Written and typed for assignments and notes

# 220,000+ Words

Read (books, essays, etc.)

