Creating Theme Paragraph

In the collection of stories *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, the short story “A Real Durwan” explores the theme of a community blaming an outsider for their own misfortunes. From the beginning Boori Ma is portrayed as an outsider because of her status as the Durwan at an apartment building and her often-distant social interactions with the buildings tenants. When the apartment building is robbed, the tenants gang up on her. Although she claims that she had nothing to do with the robbery, all they have to say is, “You expect us too believe you now” (Lahiri 82). Due to her position as an outsider in relation to the group of tenants, Boori becomes an easy recipient of their rage. Lahiri has the tenants portray a mob mentality so that the reader can see that they are not thinking logically and are instead only thinking about who is responsible for the robbery; this leads to them making the assumption that Boori did it, since she is not part of their group. By having the group turn on Boori, Lahiri illustrates to the reader that when people feel uncomfortable or threatened, they will immediately identify the person they feel doesn’t belong and viciously throw them in harm’s way. Lahiri’s demonstration of the mob attitude and the way the community blames an outsider for their misfortune presents the reader with a clear example of a theme that has been relevant since humans first formed social groups.