

English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 2

Comment: This paper is a 2 because, although the topic is mentioned, there is no real explanation of the article “‘Happyness’ for Sale” except for a repetition of the topic.

Optimism plays an important role in overcoming poverty for both Jenny, in “Circus in Town”, and Chris Gardner, in “Happiness’ for Sale.” Jenny’s family is in poverty and they could not even go see the circus when “there’s a circus in town.” Her mother complained to her father how Jenny could not “have things, and see things” like the other children. The closest she could see of the circus is the poster. Although Jenny could not physically experience the circus, through being optimistic and using her imagination, she is able to conjure up an experience like no other. Jenny’s mother thinks negatively. Her mother complains that the possible outcome for her little girl is a “big-gawky know-nothing”. Jenny’s outlook on her future contrasts to that of her mothers. Jenny sees herself as an intelligent individual. After all, “she was farther on in school than any other girl her age.” She is optimistic towards her future because she does not see herself ten years from now to be the kind of lady her mother expects her to be.

Optimism also plays an important role in “ ‘Happyness’ for Sale.”