

English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 5

Comment: This 5 paper is a proficient and fluid piece of writing. The analysis of optimism is well developed. Synthesis is established in the introduction and is strongly supported throughout the paper.

Without optimism few would ever believe in reaching great and difficult goals. Both Jenny in "Circus in Town" and Chris Gardner in " 'Happyness' for Sale" realize this fact and use their optimism to better them selves. Both believe that they can become greater than what they are and that nothing is unattainable through effort.

Jenny was so joyous and hopeful at the prospect of attending the circus. She imagined the wonder of the elephant and "red-coated brass band"(1) so vividly through the poster. Even when her excitement was destroyed by her parents' quarrel, Jenny was still able to hide away in the loft "in its dim, high stillness, [and] she had her circus."(22) Through her imagination and optimism she was able to create a "splendid, matchless circus of a little girl who had never seen one"(22) that was grander than reality could ever bring for her now. She was not defeated by her family's lack of money or her parents' arguement, she continued to dream. This determined optimism that Jenny has extends beyond imaginings of a circus. Even though her mother only believe that there is "nothing ahead for her but chickens and cows,"(10) she still wants more than that. She expects that things will be very different than what has been put before her. With her strong abilities in academics she expects to exceed her mother's expectations. Her hope for her future will see her through.

Chris Gardner always had hope for the future. He always knew that he could achieve his dreams. When he and his son were homeless, Chris did not fall into the negatives around him. Even sleeping in a public washroom he was still making " 'A lot of hard decisions [] about 'What [he was] going to do with his life,' " he didn't give up. He still looked forward to his dreams and didn't stop because times became difficult. Nothing would stop him, nothing would be enough to make him give up. He still focused on the positive as he was trying to achieve his dream of becoming a Stockbroker.

Through boundless determination, belief in the future and optimism Chris achieved his dreams and then some. Jenny possesses such qualities and therefore will find her way to a bright future as well. Never being brought down will help them both achieve anything.