

English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 5

Comment: This response demonstrates a strong understanding of the task and the texts. The analysis goes beyond the literal to the inferential. First draft errors are present.

A little girl “pirouett[s] on her bare toes” and is ecstatic. a man down on his luck fights the world to provide for his son. Both “Circus in Town” by Sinclair Ross and “Happyness for sale” by Jia Lynn Yang have elements of optimism.

Jenny displays the classic blind optimism of young children. Nothing can be or is wrong with my life. Presented with a torn Circus poster by her brother, she is at once aglow with the possibilities. She runs to her father, only to be turned away. She runs to her mother, only the get a confusing answer. At dinner, tension is thick. Confronted with reality she make a break for it. After dinner, still optimistic about seeing and experiencing the circus she retreats to the hay loft. It is there where she finds her circus, so wonderful it outshines reality.

Chris Gardner is an ordinary man, a father and a business man. After running into hard times and losing everything Chris has to resort to his optimism. His optimism drives his determination, his desire for a better life. Working by day and sleeping in bathrooms or shelters by night, Chris stays positive. Bit by bit he can see the change, his positive outlook and his drive has made a difference.

In both stories the main characters have optimism. What makes the stories unique is in the way which the degree differs. Jenny shows the blind optimism of youth which leads her to utilizing her imagination instead of getting depressed. “Happyness for Sale” is different in that it takes chris years of having an optimistic attitude, being determined to look and work for a brighter future.