

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 6

**Comment: This paper is a superior 6. The approach to the topic is engaging and demonstrates skilful control of language and topic. This paper uses strong transitions and demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the texts. This essay shows a sophisticated approach to synthesis.**

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Though these two stories come from opposite ends of the wealth spectrum they have much in common. Both characters are filled by optimism, a key instrument which elevates them from monetary suppression, and inspires them to reach their desires.

The first bit of evidence which indicated optimism's influence on Jenny's financial status was her resourcefulness. Imagination, as any intellectual person can appreciate, is the most valuable resource available to man, and this Jenny is rich with. Her fanciful daydreams of dancing purple-tighted on the bare back of a galloping horse allow her to vicariously live the experience. "Look what Tom brought me, a piece of circus!" She shrilly exclaims to her father. A lack of material wealth and pleasurable experience has allowed the girl to reach deep into her pool of imaginings, and appreciate the excitement and wonderment of a circus through merely a scrap of poster! It is in this manner that optimism allows Jenny to attain her wealth.

Where Jenny's optimism prompted her imagination, Chris Gardener's spurred determination. Though a homeless man, trapped in a desperate situation, Gardener refused to accept the circumstance and through pure will power manifested the life style he desired. His consistently optimistic mindset allowed for him to patiently trod through calamity and poverty, but most importantly, like Jenny it allowed Gardener to dream. Every day the average citizen is bombarded with the excess of the wealthy – through shopping windows, on the TV, even strolling through the park or driving to work. And though many people dream, few people think to themselves "I deserve that lifestyle, and I'm ready to live it." "Persistence, progress, and faith," all born from optimism, was the manner that Chris Gardener was able to achieve his wealth.

Imagination and determination weren't the only two advantages that lead Jenny and Chris to their dreams. Optimism was the key aspect which freed both characters from poor expectations. When Jenny tells her mother of the circus, the mother's reaction is of fury. She berates her husband for the deficit of wealth which is preventing her daughter from the life she thinks she deserves. But Jenny is indignant. Jenny sees her self as smart and capable and full of promise. She sees a bright future ahead, where her mother paints a grim one.

Though Chris' story tells of no particular character who condemns his future as it does Jenny's, low expectation are placed just as heavily upon his shoulders. A homeless African American with an infant son in tow does not give much promise to success in our society. We look down on the poor and accuse the single parent with indignities such as "Why don't you try? What did you do wrong? How could you fail?!" Optimism is the only weapon of the down trodden, and this weapon Jenny and Chris Gardener wielded with masterful skill.