

Lending a Helping Hand

TO THE READER:

The following Peer Review Exhibit is an accurate reflection of the process I used to review my peer's essay. Throughout the peer review process, I ensured that the author had a clear and effective thesis statement, organized her ideas in a logical manner, and employed the use of supporting evidence with sufficient explanation. I also ensured that proper grammar, clear sentence structure, and correct punctuation was used consistently throughout the paper. In general, the ideas in the author's paper needed more development and textual support, as well as appropriate research. The author had difficulty organizing her paper and presenting her ideas logically. She also needed to improve her thesis statement and topic sentences so that each paragraph related directly to her central idea. The overall content of each paragraph could also be improved by elaborating on her quotes in-depth and expounding on her ideas. I used a color scheme and commentary to clearly identify different aspects of the paper as well as to provide commendations, and suggestions for improvement.

Key For Color Code:

General Comments

Additional Explanation Needed

Grammar/Punctuation/Word Choice

Good Points

"Claims" by Judith Ortiz Cofer

Last time I saw her, Grandmother
had grown seamed as a Bedouin tent.
She had claimed the right
to sleep alone, to own
her nights, to never bear
the weight of sex again nor to accept
Its gift of comfort, for the luxury

of stretching her bones.

She'd carried eight children,

three had sunk in her belly, *náufragos*

she called them, shipwrecked babies

drowned in her black waters.

12

Children are made in the night and

steal your days

for the rest of your life, amen. She said this

to each of her daughters in turn. Once she had made a pact

with man and nature and kept it. Now like the sea,

she is claiming back her territory.

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I have yet to write the introduction because I'm not sure if I should have an introduction and then make the claim where I state that in a whole different paragraph using the research I got on Cofer, or do I just state that in my intro...i haven't decided yet.

I know I stated it in my first body paragraph but I'm not sure I like that and plus there is more information I have to prove that. I'm having organization issues...it's a working progress, I need time to think. Also, I'm not entirely sure I like my thesis or if my body paragraphs actually support my thesis well enough. I need to go back and fix that. Oh and I have not written my conclusion because I'm still iffy about my thesis. I think I need to revise it more.

Thesis: In the poem "Claims", by Judith Ortiz Cofer, the speaker explains how her Grandmother is claiming her rights and her feminist views back before she became submissive and made a pact with man and nature.

In the first part of the poem, the speaker identifies the grandmother as a character who is claiming back her rights. In the first and second line, the speaker says, "Grandmother had grown seamed as a Bedouin

tent" (ln 1 – 2), which interprets that the grandmother is sewing up her wounds. {Bedouins use the

word} "tent" to signify a family unit that consists of a married couple, siblings, and children. This reference could mean that the Grandmother is sheltering herself, just as a tent shelters people from the

Commented [Teneil Sa1]: Include numbering for every five lines. (Small suggestion)

Commented [Teneil Sa2]: Remember your title.

Commented [Teneil Sa3]: My suggestion would be that you use information from your research that coincides with your interpretation of the poem. It is also acceptable for you to include your research and your claim in your introduction. However, you would have to ensure that your transition is smooth.

Commented [Teneil Sa4]: In what ways does the speaker explain these particular viewpoints?

Commented [Teneil Sa5]: Check your verb tense.

Commented [Teneil Sa6]: This particular phrasing was taken directly from the poem. You could include quotation marks, but I would suggest that you use your own words or paraphrase.

Commented [Teneil Sa7]: What part of the poem do you consider to be the "first part of the poem"? You can perhaps specify the lines. For ex. "In the first eight lines of the poem.." P.S-You can use this advice only if your entire paragraph focuses on these lines.

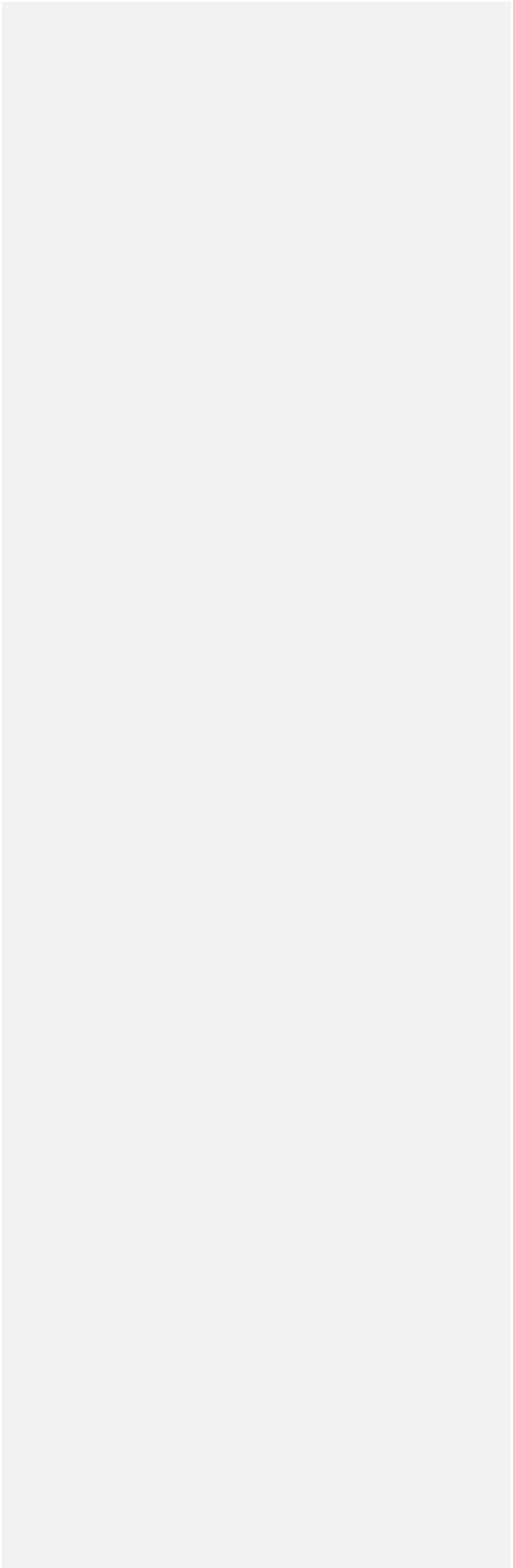
Commented [Teneil Sa8]: You do not speak about rights in this paragraph. Therefore, you need to revise this particular part of your topic sentence.

Commented [Teneil Sa9]: What "wounds" are you referring to? This is a good point but you may need to expound on this idea.

Commented [Teneil Sa10]: This phrase is confusing.

Commented [Teneil Sa11]: What does "Bedouin" mean?

outside world, from her



“pact” can be referred to as the wedding vows she said to her husband which led her to be a housewife.

In addition to wedding vows and marriage, also come the traditional of life of marriage which usually

includes children, and this is the “pact” that she made to Mother Nature. With the pact now complete

on both sides the persona declares that the grandmother’s life as a housewife is over and she is now

claiming back rights as a well respected women rather than just a traditional housewife. **Now like the*

Commented [Teneil Sa21]: Good point!

Commented [Teneil Sa22]: Repetitive

Commented [Teneil Sa23]: This is another good point. However, you may want to reconstruct this sentence because the first part basically restates what the previous sentence. By rearranging the sentence, you can expound on your idea more.

Commented [Teneil Sa24]: Overall I believe that this particular paragraph contains some great

General Comments:

Overall, I think you have established your interpretation of the poem which is that the Grandmother wants to revert to her life of feminism, thus abandoning a life of motherhood. (Why do you think she wants to do this?) I think you should re-read lines three to six (ln 3-6) and lines nine through twelve (ln 9-12) for an additional interpretation. (Try to read each group of lines as one complete sentence instead of single lines.) Also, try to incorporate some more research on the author and her belief of feminism or perhaps the influence of feminism during the time in which the poem was written. In addition, you have not strayed from the general idea that was presented in your thesis. As it pertains to organization, I think that you should work on incorporating end statements and formulating more specific thesis statements. However, I believe that once you finalize your thesis statement, this will not be a major issue. I also think that your diction and tone for the essay are appropriate. Your citations from the poem are also well-done. (If you have any questions about my suggestions for your introduction, please feel free to ask).