**Reading Homework 1: Identity**

**How does identity affect experiences and experiences affect identity?**

**Due Friday, August 18 by start of class**

**YOUR READING GRADE is based on how well you show understanding of your reading by using evidence from the TEXT. Please quote and paraphrase. This homework is NOT used to grade writing, so use text-to-speech, if it helps you.**

For a PROFICIENT grade, read the following pieces and answer the questions in paragraph form.

*The Changeling,* by Judith Ortiz Cofer

*On Being Seventeen, Bright, and Unable to Read,* by David Raymond

*Tiffany, age eleven,* as told to Rebecca Carroll

*Born Worker,* by Gary Soto

For an ADVANCED grade, read all of the above, as well as the following.

*Remember Me,* by Vivian Vande Velde

*Fairy Tale,* by Todd Strasser

1. Using at least **two of the vocabulary words** from the list below in your response, compare yourself to **the one character** in these stories with whom you most identified.

**Vocabulary relating to Identity Readings**

**ambivalence** the feeling of being torn between two choices

**angst** a feeling of anxiety, apprehension, or worry

**autonomy** freedom; having control over one’s life and destiny

**character** the distinctive qualities of an individual

**confidence**  belief in oneself

**demeanor** a person’s outward manner

**destiny** what a person receives in life asset up by fate or chance (for example, It was her destiny to be born rich.)

**disposition** the overall mood of a person

**ego** the inner self

**environment** the combination of circumstances and surroundings that influence a person’s development

**ethics** a system of values and morals

**extrovert** one who looks outward to understand who he or she is: an outgoing person

**fate** a force that determines outcomes and endings regardless of what individuals do

**heredity** physical and intellectual qualities that are passed down from generation to generation

**Identity crisis**  the confusion and conflict that result when a person isn’t sure of the meaning and purpose of life

**introvert** one who looks inward to understand who he or she is; a shy person

**I.Q**. an abbreviation for Intelligence Quotient, determined through an intelligence test

**morals** feelings and judgments about right and wrong that guide a person’s behavior

**narcissism** excessive love of oneself

**optimist** a person who tends to see the good side of people or events

**personality** the ways of acting, thinking, and feeling that taken together make a person unique

**pessimist** a person who tends to see the bad side of people or events

**self-absorption** a narrow focus on one’s own thoughts, activities, or interests

**will** strong desires or wishes that direct people to take or avoid certain actions

1. In which reading does the parent have the most influence? Explain how you think that influence has or will shape that character’s identity.
2. Tiffany makes a number of strong statements in “Tiffany, Age Eleven.” Choose one of her statements and explain why you agree or disagree.
3. How are Jose and Arnie’s identities shaped by their work ethic? Who do you think will be more successful in life and why
4. Using a ranking system, like the chart below, rank **how well the main character knows herself or himself** by the end of the story (or poem). Use 1 as “clueless” up to 5 for “knowledgeable.”

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Ranking 1-5** | **Reason for ranking** |
| The speaker in *“The Changeling”* |  |  |
| David Raymond in *On Being Seventeen, Bright, and Unable to Read* |  |  |
| Tiffany in *Tiffany, age eleven* |  |  |
| Jose in *Born Worker* |  |  |
| Arnie in *Born Worker* |  |  |
| **Advanced** |  |  |
| The prince in *Remember Me* |  |  |
| Cynthia in *Fairy Tale* |  |  |

1. Using the readings to support your thinking, how much of a person’s identity is external (influenced by things outside their control) and how much of identity is internal (controlled by the self)?

**ADVANCED**

1. In *Remember Me*, who do you think the witch was, and why do you think she did what she did?
2. How do *Remember Me* and *Fairy Tale* invert “traditional” identities?