Muhammad Aqib ENG 1101

“America and I”

1.) Whenever people from other countries think of America, the first thing that comes to mind is the American Dream. People believe that America is a country where you can do anything. It is a place where your wildest dreams will come true. Yezierska thought that life will be easy and everything will just be given to her as soon as she comes here. To her, “America was a land of living hope, woven of dreams.” She described Russia as a hidden sap and trapped colors that have never been seen before. Yezierska thought she will finally be able to be free and do what she wants to do.

2.) Coming in as an immigrant, it is very hard. You come with nothing and have to build yourself up from nothing. This is exactly what Yezierska did in which she found a job where she can freely express herself and be a free person. She aspires to become successful and live a life without poverty. However, she first needs shelter and food before she can achieve her “high visions.”

3.) Yezierska’s “Americanized family” treated her very poorly. Although they gave her shelter and food, they did not respect her. They did not even pay her wages which is just wrong. All the hard work she has done, she gets nothing for it. They are taking advantage of her and using her. She is basically a slave who does not know anything and is working more that she is suppose to and getting nothing in return rather than some food and a bed.

4.) Yezierska's second job was a good job because it gave the evening and night free for herself to enjoy life. She eventually lost her job because she was told to work extra hours which would take time from her. She started complaining and told her boss that she wanted time for herself. She refused and ended up getting fired.

5.) Anzia prefers to have a job where she can freely express herself such as a writer. Also she wants a job that will not make her work extra. The thing that is stopping her from achieving all of this is the language barrier. She does not know how to read or write English. She can, however, speak a little English but that will never help her achieve her goal.

6.) I agree with the author's argument of helping incoming immigrants and giving them a free room and board. Immigrants need all the help they can get, They come here with nothing and have a hard time adjusting to the surroundings. If they get a little help, they can eventually reach at a point where they can support themselves and live a free and good life.

7.) Anzia thought that America would just give her a easy life. If she came here, everything would be alright and she would not have to worry about anything. However that was not the case. She faced reality when she realized how hard it is to become successful. She learned lessons from the pilgrims which were to just follow your goal and do not expect it to come to you. Also, if she wants something, she has to earn it. It is not given, people have to earn for it. Yes i do agree with her assessment because without hard work and dedication, you will never get anywhere in life.

8.) The author uses “hunger” and “appetite” to bring out her thesis by showing hunger as a desire to work. For example, her desire is to get a job where she is happy and can work the way she wants to. Her appetite is what she needs to do in order to feed her hunger.