

Jesse Abarro  
Professor Monroe Street  
English 1121

Essay 1

There are many ways of interpretation. It is to help improve on understanding and internalizing information. Interpretations like religious, political, moral, ethical, and scientific are the types of interpretations that are very common to people's understanding. It bolsters a person's ability to articulate and judgments in times of critical decisions. Interpretation helps the mind to be sharper to perform more critical thinking jobs.

In Junot Diaz's article "*The Money*", the poor immigrant family that works in the United States. The family is also helping extended relatives in Dominican Republic who are less fortunate. The money sent to the families in a third world country is a great help because a dollar means already a lot of money to them. In the article, it also describes the role of filial piety, in which adult children must help their parents who are aging in return to parents' sacrifice during their years of raising them. Immigrants also faced discrimination, racism, and violence because of the fact that they are not from the country. Immigrant children were instilled on values, respect, and dignity. Like in Junot Diaz's article the parents of the children helped each other to sustain the needs of the family.

I myself can relate because I am an immigrant from the Philippines, I came to the United States when I was 12 years old. Immigrants like us feared for our lives because of the fact that America has racial division. As children of a Filipino Immigrants, it is instilled in us that we shall not fear whatever situation may happen. My father and stepmother still send money to their extended relatives in the Philippines. They both send money to the Philippines because not only to help the extended family members, but to acquire land properties as well. On my father's side where I grew up, my grandmother and aunts are all about money. Money

is what they only want. As growing up, I was disrespected by my grandmother and aunt when they cannot receive money from my parents. Money is not a problem for me, but the problem is that respect has been destroyed because of money. As I am growing up, I have been meeting new people in my life. I have been involved in sports and other activities. I learned to save money on my own. All the money I received, I saved them when in times of crisis, I have money to spend by keeping them in my coin bank. One day, when I am going to put more money on my savings. The moment I opened the coin bank, all my money was gone. I have reported it to my parents, crying as I was telling them. My grandmother took the side of my aunt, then I figured it was my aunt who stole the money because I never said a word about the money. Then when I confronted her, we fought. She was violent, she tried to punch me, and I dodged then threw a hit at her. Then I saw all my money worth ₱5,000.00 which in dollars is \$100 at that time. I took back my money, and hid it in a place where she did not know. My uncle always teaches me to do what is right, he even teaches me to fight for what is rightfully mine, and to share what I have with people who are in need.

When I moved to the United States in 2011, my experience from the Philippines is what I have brought with me. I have lived in the Bronx since 2011, the Bronx is interpreted as the place of drug dealers, violent crimes, and gangs. But as I live in the area, violence is always caused by the people who do not reside in the area. Because the residents of the area are not doing bad things in their backyard, according to the people who are residing in my neighborhood. I faced so many challenges while living in New York, I have a hard time speaking and comprehending English. I faced many difficulties due to the fact that I am an Asian, people make fun of me for having bad English accents. But that did not stop me from learning. When I reached high school, I was being bullied. It was the time that I decided to learn Martial Arts to defend myself. Like what happened to me in the Philippines, people

stole some of my properties. As doing for what is right is instilled on me, I fought for what is right. There is one event, when one person pushed me, and I almost hit my head on the wall. I have pushed myself back to throw an elbow strike at the person that he almost lost his breath after the strike. But as a Catholic, it was instilled in us that we should bless our enemies, which I helped the person who bullied me to be well. The events have a flashback to me on what happened while I was growing up in the Philippines, I realized that I have become a person of whom I have wished not to become. From that time, the high school bullies had stopped bullying me. I have come to stop bullies from bullying other students when I was still in high school. When college applications came, I applied to the United States Naval Academy Class of 2022. I was rejected on that attempt, and I chose to attend NYCCT for Civil Engineering, and I tried to apply again for Class of 2024, and I made it to Army ROTC at City College. When I got rejected again even though I got all the grades that USNA is looking for, I chose not to apply again. It is because I am competing for the spot in the Army ROTC.

After some time, the people that bullied me while I was in high school, have come up to me, and apologized for the things they have done. I had a nostalgia that I helped people change for good, and made them turn away from bad things. I myself have also improved on many things. I learned to make architectural drawings, improve more on mathematics and science. Therefore I am working towards my degree in Civil Engineering. At the same time I am training with the military to become an officer, and be a better leader to lead the nation's army. In the Army ROTC, I learned more on how to respect people who are superior, inferior, and at our level. I came to realize, even the people that did something wrong to me, I have to forgive them because of the fact that I am the one who is hurting myself.

Even though I am maturing as time is passing, there are still people who have negative thoughts on me. Some of them are family members, some are former friends, and some are just people who just want to verbally express what they have on me. But I never let anyone let me down. Like in Junot Diaz's article, he never let himself down, and he chose to do what is right.

Immigrants are always looked down because of their poor comprehension in English. But language is not a hindrance in excelling in life. Because of the fact that I got my act together, from the time the trust is broken, I have learned to be more responsible for myself and the people around me. I have continued to be frugal with money, although no one is taking my money, but I am also making sure it is safe. The money as described in the Bible, *1 Timothy 6:10-15* which says that the love of money is the root of evil. I spend a small percentage of money to purchase food, and give them to the homeless people who are hungry.

One day, I received a phone call from my grandmother, asking for forgiveness for all that she had done to me, and I said that the past is in the past. My father, despite what happened to me, still sent money to her for medication.

Living in two environments is difficult to adapt due to the fact that you are used to one thing, and then you have to adapt to another one. But by executing the right thing will benefit you because of the fact that it will bolster respect, trust, loyalty, and many more. Life can be difficult, but when troubles come, it will test your dignity. If you uphold your dignity, you will do what is right even if it will cost your family's relationships. As time is passing, I lost friends along the way because I chose to do what is right, and benefit the fruits of your labor. The best experience I have in life is when I forgive the people who have done horrible things at me, from a family member stealing my money to the bullies that I confronted.

As I am training for the military to become an officer, at the same time I am working towards my degree for Civil Engineering. In the future, I may build a construction empire. When I came to the United States, I have become more responsible of my belongings, especially with money.