

Jesse Abarro

Professor Monroe Street

Englis1121

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## Essay 2

It is common to immigrant families living in the United States to send money to their home country. It is because the filial piety is instilled in every single child that grew up in their respected countries. Filial Piety is a form of respect rendered by children to their parents for raising them when they age. Like in Junot Diaz's article *The Money*, the children were instilled about discipline, respect, and honesty. Diaz has described that about his life, when they were financially unstable, and his parents are working like two or more jobs to sustain the family needs. The mother is sending aid to her extended families in Dominican Republic that needed help due to filial piety. The family resides in a small apartment that is located in a dangerous neighborhood, in which robbery is notorious. When the family was on vacation one day, upon their return, the money that was saved by the mother was stolen. It was his friends who he trusts that stole the money after he detected that they were the ones who stole the money, and other belongings. Diaz then planned his actions, then took back all money and belongings that belonged to his family after he confirmed that it was them who broke into his house.

The events happened as a rising action that led to climax, and the falling action that happens after the climax. The rising action is when the family went into a summer vacation, in which the robbers took the opportunity to steal the money that the mother had saved up to send

them to Dominican Republic. Diaz stated “No one took the robbery as hard as my mom, though” which his mother has expressed her anguish towards the people who burglarize their house, and steal their belongings. It is also the time when Diaz has become reluctant to the point that he may have told his friends about their plan on going on a vacation that they have executed all of their actions. The burglary resulted in Diaz's investigation, which he found out that the people who burglarized his home were his friends. Which the climax of the story is that Diaz have found out who were involved in the burglary which are his friends as stated “Except that a couple of days later I was moaning about the robbery to these guys I was hanging with at that time and they were cursing sympathetically, and out of nowhere it struck me”. He planned to confirm if they were the ones who steal the money, and it was confirmed when he saw all of their belongings, and he took back all of his properties including the money that was stolen.

The falling action is when after he took back their property and the money that belonged to them. Diaz has returned the money which is a piece of information that discipline was instilled on him and his siblings. He stated “The truth was I was seriously considering keeping it. But in the end the guilt got to me. I guess I was expecting my mother to run around with joy, to crown me her favorite son,...” that he wants the respect of his mother to be the same as before. The events that have a meaning, have made Diaz feel that he did the right thing which is to give back the property to the rightful owner, which is his mother.

Diaz's trusts that were established on his friends were broken due to the covetation of property of another person. Trust and respect have been ruined due to animosity that led to negative things on the relationships between families. Even though in Diaz's neighborhood, burglary is common, in which it is stated “In our neighborhood, cars and apartments are always

getting jacked,” that it is not just them that are victims of burglary. But the worst thing is that betrayal always comes from either friends or relatives. That said respect and trust was broken due to betrayal.

In many interpretations, they may say that Diaz should have gone to the police, but sometimes the police cannot act on certain things without any probable cause. But Diaz has to do things like mentioned above in order to regain his mother’s trust in him. The neighborhood is described as a bad neighborhood because crimes are always occurring like every single second. The Police Visibility is not mentioned to which assumably, there are no police presence in the area, or there may be but are not doing their job due to pressure from the people. Diaz is describing himself as a hero because he took back his family’s property that he did what is best for his family. It also shows that Diaz is capable of violating his moral standards just to do what is right, and to ensure that no one deserves to have bad things happen in their lives.

The text is showing how ambidextrous a person can be, which a person can do multiple things that he/she is capable of. The climax of the story is what pushed Diaz to do what he does not want in order to correct the mistakes that were done by another person. It is basically the term “the end justifies the means” which the actions of Diaz have been justified in order for the rightful owners to have what they deserve which is justice. The author is explaining that the events in his life are just a valuable lesson of who he should trust, how to secure things that are important, and to do what is right. Therefore, the moral of the story is to defend the honor in doing what is right, and to promote what is right.