

In the short story “The Money” by Junot Diaz. We are brought into the life of Diaz coming from an immigrant family, living in a rough neighborhood, the father who couldn’t keep and the mother a hard working stay at home mom who was always sending back money to their country for the family. When Diaz was 12 years old, his family went on a trip. Coming back home from the trip the mother's main stash of money was gone, stolen by someone. Robberies were a common thing in the neighborhood especially being newly moved immigrants, they are for sure to be seen as a target. The mother took the robbery harder than the kids or the father because the saved money is what they used to survive and send money back to Santo Domingo, the mother blamed the kids saying it was probably one of your friends. Diaz had brought up what had happened with his friends and became suspicious. Diaz had to find a way to sneak into his “friends” house, he asked to use the bathroom and looked for his mother's stolen money. He found it and contemplated keeping it but instead returned it to his mother because it was missing some money. In the end he returned the money but the mother was neither happy nor extremely furious.

What makes this text unique, is the way this short story isn’t a sob story or a happy ending type of story. It’s a brief compact summary of the author's first person POV, explaining in great detail, just straight honesty of what went down. Of course there is no proof of what the events in the reading have taken place but just hearsay of what the author explains but the level

of honesty in this story is through the roof. Diaz could've most likely made himself a hero of the story receiving much praise from his mother after finding the money or the fact that he felt bad about even finding the money, these are all real human reasons and shows the theme of honesty in the text. In the text at the very end Diaz says "It took me two days to return the money to my mother. The truth was I was seriously considering keeping it. But in the end the guilt got to me" (The Money by Diaz pg 3). The author is showing his relatable side these are thoughts we all have, however not too many people can admit this to themselves. Does he suggest that he is also a criminal by not giving back the money right away?

Similarly in a poem called "The boy who never told a lie" by Anonymous it talks about a young boy who always spoke truth and relating this to "The money" by Diaz, Diaz might've lied about small stuff possibly, growing up in a rough environment this would make it hard for you to always be 100% honest, white lies never hurt too much. However when it came to the real deal family issues, even after contemplating on whether he should keep the money or not, he was eventually convinced by his guilt to return the money. Diaz was trying to show his true colors, doesn't let materialistic stuff cloud his conscience or maybe it's the guilt that made him give it up. It could be that in the poem as well the young boy who does not lie has a guilty conscious when he does lie or if he ever did lie before because his townspeople certainly trust that the boy does not lie. In the poem the author says "Twas said, "There goes the honest youth." And when the people that stood near. Would turn to ask the reason why, The answer would always be this: "Because he never tells a lie." Showing the theme of honesty in both texts being compared.

In conclusion this wraps up both of these texts, both sharing in the theme of honesty, while “The Money” showed a lot of heartfelt moments if you can find it relatable usually every immigrant household has their own pains and struggles, we are all human and have these crazy thoughts at times but our morality and mortality should humble us into just being more honest with one another.