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B Block
Cronin AP Literature

Tara feels like she is different from the rest of the people in her group and this causes her to feel like she does not belong or deserve to be at King's College. She shows this through her word choice and by showing how big everything around her at King's College felt.

Tara uses word choice to show that she feels like she does not deserve to be there. She starts by describing the first time she saw King's College, remembering, "The first time I saw King's College ... I didn't think I was dreaming ... because my imagination had never produced anything so grand" (235). This starts off this passage with the sense that King's College is unimaginably grand for Tara and implies that Tara therefore does not believe that she is as grand because even in her imagination, which is where many people imagine how things would be if they were perfect, she cannot imagine anything as grand as King's College. She continues this sense of grandness and perfection by describing the grass at King's College as "perfectly clipped" (235). When she is led to the room and told to make herself comfortable, she tells the reader that it was basically impossible for her to do, which is how she shows the reader that she could not feel comfortable because she did not feel like she belonged there. She continues to show the reader that she feels out of place and that she does not belong there by expressing how Tara felt like she was "under scrutiny" by personifying the hall and having the hall judge Tara. Because she feels like she does not belong, Tara hides at the back of the group as the group goes across a courtyard so that she can avoid being seen and judged (236). All of the word choice together lets the reader know that Tara feels like she is not where she should be and does not deserve to be at King's College.

Tara gives the reader a feeling of how small she felt when she arrived at King's College to show that she feels like she does not belong. She compares the grass to a lake and the chapel to a mountain. This gives the reader an understanding of the strangeness that Tara feels as she is given a tour of King's College, because she is not used to seeing buildings this big. She continues to give the reader a sense of smallness by expressing how "cavernous" the great hall was and comparing the size of the room inside the "voluminous" chapel to the size of the ocean (235, 236). This constant expression of the feeling of smallness shows that Tara is uncomfortable, since people tend to feel small when they are in uncomfortable situations. Tara only feels big and in the right place when she is on the chapel roof, where everything else looks small.

All together, Tara's sense of smallness and her strangeness show that she does not feel like she belongs at King's College, even though Dr. Kerry believes that she does. Many people experience this sense of strangeness and this is a reason for them to believe that other people may believe that they actually do fit.

Rubric: Timed In-class Analytical Essay (60 minutes)

The “A” Essay...

- Provides a clearly articulated and insightful central argument (Thesis)
- Has topic sentences clearly connecting each paragraph to the central argument
- Consistently brings in and analyzes compelling textual evidence
- **Contains thoughtful analysis that explores HOW the evidence supports a line of reasoning (could include looking at diction, syntax, figurative language)**
- Closes gracefully, considers the “so what?”
- Demonstrates a thorough and sophisticated understanding of the text
- Is clearly organized
- Follows the rules of formal, analytical writing
- Is a polished, edited piece.

The “B” Essay...

- Offers specific central argument (Thesis)
- Has topic sentences that direct the focus of each paragraph
- Analyzes relevant textual evidence in order to develop its argument
- Considers how the evidence supports a line of reasoning (could include looking at diction, syntax, figurative language)
- Contains a clear closing thought
- Demonstrates a sound understanding of the text
- Is organized
- Follows the rules of formal, analytical writing
- Contains a few mechanical errors

The “C” Essay...

- Offers a vague central argument
- Slips into plot summary rather than analysis of the text
- Does not demonstrate a complete understanding of the text
- Lacks a clear organization of ideas
- Does not follow the rules of formal, analytical writing
- Contains significant mechanical errors

The “D” Essay...

- Demonstrates little understanding of the text or task

The “F” Essay...

- Is plagiarized