**ESSAY: Connecting to *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, A Long Walk to Water, I will Always Write Back, or Along Way Gone***

Literature comes alive when readers make connections to the story. As you read  ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, A Long Walk to Water, I will Always Write Back, or Along Way Gone*** you may be thinking how different your life is from the characters and how you have nothing in common with the situations in the book. However, with more thought, you realize that many of the situations in the book are common to the human experience. For this essay, choose ONE of the themes in ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, A Long Walk to Water, I will Always Write Back, or Along Way Gone*** that you connect to. Explain its significance in the book and then make the connection to your own life.

**Possible themes to explore**

* Overcoming obstacles
* Making the best of a bad situation
* Finding your inner strength
* Coping with bullying
* Standing up for yourself
* Believing in yourself
* Challenging yourself to be the best you can be
* Adversity makes us strong
* The best education is learned from experience not school
* another theme of your choice

**Keep in mind**

This is a comparison essay, not a narrative. The purpose is to show how your life experience is similar and different to a theme in the book.

**Requirements**

Your ESSAY must be clearly organized and fully developed. Work hard to make sure you have included detailed explanation, description and examples to support each topic sentence.

**Introduction**

Use the introduction paragraph to provide some context for the essay. Make it clear that the essay will focus on both any of the above titlesand your own experiences. Your thesis should reflect the theme that you will be writing about and its presence in the book and your own life.

**Body Paragraphs**

Body paragraphs will reflect the theme you have chosen and explain its importance in *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* and in your own life. Probably the easiest way to organize is to present the *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* first and then in separate paragraphs your own experience. In order to show the relationship, use clear, powerful transitions.

**Body paragraphs**

Be sure that you include

* At least **3 body paragraphs**
* **A topic sentence in each body paragraph** that tells what the paragraph is about.
* **Specific examples** and details support and develop topic sentences.
* **clear organization** so that body paragraphs are written in a logical order with one main idea per paragraph.
* **Transitions** that tie paragraphs and sentences together

**Conclusion**

The **concluding paragraph** brings the essay to a satisfying close. One good technique is to wrap back to the introduction. Both your experience and the book should be highlighted in the conclusion.

**Other requirements**

* Each paragraph ,just have a topic sentence that doesn’t use a pronoun without an antecedent
* written in **clear, complete sentences**.
* **spell-checked**.
* **proofread.**
* **typed and double-spaced**.

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| CATEGORY | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| **Introduction (Organization)** | The introduction is inviting, states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper using a thesis statement. | The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader. | The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader.  Missing a thesis statement | There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper. |
| **Support for Topic (Content)** | Relevant, telling, quality details give the reader important information that goes beyond the obvious or predictable.  Has at least three quotes, cited correctly and explained | Supporting details and information are relevant, but one key issue or portion of the storyline is unsupported.  Have two quotes cited correctly and explained, | Supporting details and information are relevant, but several key issues or portions of the storyline are unsupported.  Dropped a quote in but its not explained or cited. | Supporting details and information are typically unclear or not related to the topic.  No Quotes |
| **Conclusion (Organization)**  **For each paragraph** | The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that they understand what the writer is \"getting at.\" | The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends. | The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends. | There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends. |
| **Capitalization & Punctuation (Conventions)** | Writer makes no errors in capitalization or punctuation, so the paper is exceptionally easy to read. | Writer makes 1 or 2 errors in capitalization or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to read. | Writer makes a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader\'s attention and interrupt the flow. | Writer makes several errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that catch the reader\'s attention and greatly interrupt the flow. |