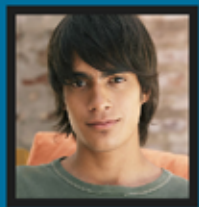


Simon's 2.8 Character Life Path



Option 1—"Garson" by Wayson Choy

NOTE: Simon completed his assignment using the short story "Garson," by Wayson Choy. You must choose a character from your novel.

Dear Mother,

I have been thinking about my childhood a lot lately. Maybe it's because I will be having a child of my own soon, your grandchild. I want to make sure that I am a good father to him, and that means helping him avoid the mistakes I made. In order to do that, I need to be honest about my mistakes and try to understand why I made them. I would also like to try to make you understand.

You have a good variety of sentence lengths in this paragraph, which helps create sentence fluency.

This sentence functions like a thesis statement to show what the letter will prove or explain. Nice!

I'm sure you remember my childhood friend Garson. For years, we did everything together and were the best of buddies. He was always a good person, even though he had a lot to be cocky about. He was a cute little kid, smart and athletic, and adults just loved him. I would stand by and watch grown-ups showering him with attention. It made me so jealous. I would have given anything for that kind of attention back then. Even though, Garson was my friend. Do you remember how I used to defend Garson when we were picked on by Stan Yee and his other brothers? Garson ran away, but I stayed and fought for us. I thought that would make people like me . . . for being brave. But you just told me I should have been smart like Garson and run away.

This is a sentence fragment (incomplete sentence). Try changing to something like this:

However, Garson was my friend.

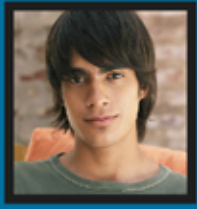
I think jealousy is partly why I chose to start picking on other kids, especially that older kid. Remember him? The one who looked kind of different and acted a little strange? We were really mean to him, and he didn't even realize it. Eventually his parents sent him to a special home to protect him from bullies like me. That was the biggest impact of my choice. It makes me sick to my stomach every time I think about it. I knew what it felt like to be picked on.

Be careful not to start too many sentences the same way. You have lots that begin with "I." Try rearranging sentences so they begin in different ways

Example Rewording

Jealousy is part of the reason why I started picking on other kids, especially that older kid.

Simon's 2.8 Character Life Path



Option 1—"Garson" by Wayson Choy

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I knew how hard it was to NOT be the cute and perfect kid that everyone liked, so it doesn't make sense that I was so mean to others. When I think back to the choice I made to bully that kid, I think of it as a mirror. Every time I remember my actions, they reflect back to me my own fear and insecurities, and it helps me from behaving like that again.

Nice use of the mirror as a symbol of the character's choice. It's a concrete object that stands for what this event means to the character.







Honestly, Mom, it really surprised me how you acted when I came home that day after beating up that kid. I thought you were going to punish me for hurting him, but you didn't say anything about that. You just wanted me to stay away from the kid so I didn't turn out like him. I know you just wanted me to be normal like other kids, but that was the wrong thing to do as a parent. Your job was to teach me why people bully and why it was so wrong. I should have been grounded.

I take responsibility for what I did to that kid, and I would apologize to him if I could. I can't blame you for my actions, but I do think the way I was treated does explain some of my behaviour. I hope for my own child that I can focus on teaching him right from wrong. I also hope that if he does bully someone, I will be able to understand why. My wish, though, is that I can show him enough attention, affection, and support that he won't feel the need to bully. I love you, Mom, but I wish I had gotten that from you. I know you did your best as a parent, and I'm going to try to repeat many of those things when I become a dad, but this is one area I hope to be even better. I hope you understand.

Great explanation of the impact of this choice on the future!

Love,
Your Son

Simon's 2.8 Character Life Path

Value	Ideas and Impressions	Presentation
 <p>Excellent</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your ideas and perceptions about the character are <i>insightful</i> .	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your stylistic choices and diction capture your character's voice <i>convincingly</i> . <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Your presentation of what you have learned is <i>insightful</i> .
 <p>Proficient</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas and perceptions about the character are <i>thoughtful</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your stylistic choices and diction capture your character's voice <i>competently</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> Your presentation of what you have learned is <i>thoughtful</i> .
 <p>Satisfactory</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas and perceptions about the character are <i>appropriate</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your stylistic choices and diction capture your character's voice <i>clearly</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> Your presentation what you have learned is <i>adequate</i> .
 <p>Limited</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Your ideas and perceptions are <i>incomplete, superficial, or suggest lack of awareness</i> .	<input type="checkbox"/> Your stylistic choices and diction <i>do not</i> capture your character's voice. <input type="checkbox"/> Your presentation of what you have learned is <i>inadequate, incomplete, or superficial</i> .
 <p>Resubmission Needed</p>	Your attempt to respond is <i>insufficient</i> . Contact your teacher to discuss suggestions for improvement and resubmission of your work.	
TOTAL: 36/40 = 90%	19/20	17/20
 <p>Assessment</p>	<p>Areas of strength: Wow! Simon, you really captured this character's voice, and the anguish he feels about bullying. You show great insight into the main character's behaviours as well as the mother's behaviours. The choice of the mirror as a symbol was an effective one. It really represents how the character's bullying of the older boy caused him to take a long hard look at himself and the kind of person he wanted to be. You did a particularly good job of showing the choices this character has for the future and which path he will most likely choose.</p> <p>Might I suggest: Continue striving for sentence fluency in your writing by varying the way your sentences begin as well as your sentence length. Doing this not only makes your writing sound more sophisticated, but it also make it easier to read. Be careful to avoid sentence fragments (incomplete sentences).</p>	