

Access the passage for Question 2 (page 3), found at the link below:

https://secure-media.collegeboard.org/apc/ap10_frq_eng_lit_formb.pdf

Thesis:

In the excerpt from the story “Cherry Bomb,” Maxine Clair presents two youthful misunderstandings, describes an arduous journey to a sentimental treasure, and downplays a dangerous encounter in order to characterize the narrator’s childhood as a time of blissful and naive adventure, ultimately illustrating that nostalgia brings comfort and joy to a mature mind.¹

Constructing Conclusion Paragraphs: Your Inner Cinderella (2~6 sentences)

1. Identify 2-3 key ideas—singular abstract words—to which the essay relates.

Comfort Sentimentality Nostalgia Joviality Naivety
Adventure Youthful Misunderstanding Blissful Ignorance
Immaturity Secrecy

2. Generating a sentence that establishes the relationship between the ideas considered in step 1; this will be the first sentence of your conclusion. To do this with style, consider generating a pertinent metaphor to articulate the relationship.

Original: Remembering the jovial days of yesteryear can be quite comforting, especially when dealing with the realities of adulthood.

Style: Recollection of childhood memories invokes a cozy and comforting sense of nostalgia, which wraps the adult mind in a warm blanket of simpler times.

3. After highlighting the ideas that the paper explores, write them into a universally applicable model and/or make the audience respond to said ideas in some way, but never by asking a question. This works best for students if they synthesize a remarkably pertinent piece of textual evidence as they display the story or poem’s universal application.

(Channel your inner Cinderella and leave your glass slipper!)

In other words: Write two to three sentences that clearly link the ideas in the prompt to an extension of your thesis. Do this by explaining what the author’s message is in a fully universal sense. In other words, explain the universal insight the author is presenting to the reader without mentioning anything about the plot; however, one thing you may want to consider doing is finding a “sexy quote” that thematically summarizes a universal insight and include that in your last sentence of your conclusion. This leaves a “**BAM!!!**” factor that is undeniable.

¹ Originally produced by Sammy O’Connor (Valley Tech class of 2017)

Note 1: To write a universally excellent glass slipper, consider generating a hypothetical “if this didn’t happen...” statement or summarizing the last event in the resolution. Change all literary elements to universal terms, and then use the sentence that comes from such.

e.g., “If...” statement: If Romeo had only waited a few moments longer, he’d have been able to live happily with Juliet.

Revised Universal: If individuals were only willing to act with a bit more patience and prudence, they would be much more likely to see the “honey of [life’s] breath” (V.iii.92).

Or

The simple gift of a cherry bomb that her cousin gave her allowed the narrator to feel valued and important.

Revised: Even the seemingly most simple gifts, whether they come from close relatives or friends, have the power to remind individuals of the immense value of “good times” (Clair 62-63).

Conclusion:

(2) Recollection of childhood memories invokes a cozy and comforting sense of nostalgia, which wraps the adult mind in a warm blanket of simpler times.

(3) Positive memories of the more adventurous days hold significant value, and although they spend most of their time tucked away in a “private box of things” (Clair 18) while hidden in a “cave-dark closet” (Clair 26) of the mind, one should always remember how to access them and do so often. ²

² Originally produced by Sammy O’Connor (Valley Tech class of 2017)