

## **Letter Scoring Rubric**

### **“Not mine!” Interpreting Sandra Cisneros’ “Eleven”**

#### **Primary Trait (Content)**

##### **Superior**

The **6** letter is clearly superior: well-written, insightful and creative. The 6 paper does most or all the following well:

- Assumes the persona of Rachel and impressively writes in her voice.
- Addresses the person to whom the letter is written and clearly explains why Rachel is writing.
- Describes Rachel’s thoughts and feelings during the incident with the red sweater in depth.
- Skillfully weaves at least one simile or metaphor from the text into the letter.
- Uses at least one simile or metaphor that is original, creative and/or insightful.
- Includes a thoughtful or significant final remark about the incident or parting words to the person.

##### **Commendable**

A **5** letter is a strong paper that addresses all of the aspects of the assignment well. It is a thinner version of the 6 letter -- still impressive and interesting but less well handled in terms of insight, depth of discussion, or language. The 5 paper does most or all of the following well.

- Assumes the persona of Rachel and believably writes in her voice.
- Addresses the person to whom the letter is written and offers some explanation of why the author is writing.
- Describes Rachel’s thoughts and feelings during the incident with the red sweater in some depth but not as perceptively as a 6 paper.
- Appropriately weaves at least one simile or metaphor from the text into the letter.
- Uses at least one simile or metaphor that is somewhat original, creative and/or insightful.
- Includes a final remark or parting statement that is somewhat thoughtful or significant.

### **Adequate**

A **4** letter is a paper that meets most of the criteria of the assignment but does so in less depth than a 6 or 5 paper. A 4 paper may exhibit some or all of the following characteristics:

- Assumes the persona of Rachel and writes in her voice but less believably than a 5 paper.
- Addresses the person to whom the letter is written but may not adequately explain why Rachel is writing.
- Adequately describes Rachel's thoughts and feelings during the incident with the red sweater.
- Weaves at least one simile or metaphor from the text into the letter but it/they may not fit as naturally as in the 5 paper.
- Uses at least one simile or metaphor but the figure(s) of speech may be less original and predictable.
- Includes a final remark or parting statement.

### **Barely Adequate**

A **3** letter is a lower half paper that superficially addresses some requirements of the prompt but is weak in insight, depth of discussion and language. A 3 paper may exhibit some or all of the following:

- Attempts to assume the persona of Rachel but does not write in her voice believably.
- May jump right into discussing the incident without addressing the audience or explaining why Rachel is writing.
- Retells what happened rather than describing Rachel's thoughts and feelings during the incident.
- Fails to weave a simile or metaphor from the text into the paper or does so awkwardly.
- Attempts to create an original simile or metaphor but doesn't set forth a comparison or uses something trite or inappropriate.
- Neglects to include a final remark or says something superficial.

### **Inadequate**

A **2** paper is an insufficient attempt to write to the prompt. It has all of the weaknesses of a 3 paper but they are compounded by a lack of understanding of the story.

- Does not assume the persona of Rachel.
- Fails to explain why Rachel is writing.
- Relies solely on superficial plot summary and may relate this inaccurately.
- Includes no similes or metaphors from the text.

- Does not attempt to create an original simile or metaphor.
- Fails to include a final remark.

### **No Evidence of Achievement**

A 1 paper fails to address the prompt or writes so little so poorly that it cannot be understood by the reader.

### **Secondary Trait (Form and Correctness)**

#### **Superior**

A 4 letter has few, if any, errors in form and correctness. The 4 paper will contain:

- Proper letter form: date, greeting, body, closing.
- Proper paragraph form.
- Complete sentences and correct sentence structure.
- Few if any, errors in the conventions of written English including spelling, usage, grammar, and punctuation.

#### **Commendable/Adequate**

A 3 letter has some errors in form or correctness but none that interfere with the writer's message. A 3 paper will contain:

- Proper letter form: date, greeting, body, closing.
- Proper paragraph form.
- Less than three incomplete or incorrect sentences (a run-on or fragment).
- Some minor errors in the conventions of written English including spelling, usage, grammar, and punctuation but none that interfere with the writer's message.

#### **Barely Adequate**

A 2 letter has some problems with form and correctness. A 2 paper will contain:

- Some inconsistency in letter form: date, greeting, body, closing.
- Problems with paragraph form (for example, be written as all one paragraph).
- Several incomplete or incorrect sentences.
- Many errors in the conventions of written English -- spelling, usage, grammar, and punctuation -- some of which interfere with the writer's message.

#### **Inadequate**

A 1 letter will have major problems in form and correctness. A 1 paper will contain:

- Errors in letter form.

- No clear paragraph structure.
- Incomplete and indecipherable sentences.
- Serious problems in the conventions of written -- spelling, usage, grammar, and punctuation -- that make it extremely difficult to comprehend the writer's message.