

# Student Paper

**DIRECTIONS:** Use the space below to write your essay in response to the passage you've been given. You are not expected to fill all the pages and, if necessary, you may cross things out and rewrite neatly. Before you begin, please put your name and date at the bottom of page 5. Take a few minutes to plan your essay on the Planning Page on page 5 of this packet before you start to write.

CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ R251130 \_\_\_\_\_

During the story "Ribbons" by Laurence Yep, Stacy's relationship with her grandmother changes many times. When Grandma first arrives, Stacy is glad to see her. However, she soon begins to encounter some conflicts. Throughout the story, these conflicts become more and more serious. Luckily, Stacy is finally able to make grandma see reason and by doing so is able to form an ever lasting bond. Although Stacy's toe shoe ribbons causes the most conflict between them, this is what ends up binding them together forever. Stacy learns that you have to put yourself in the other person's shoes to really understand them. \_\_\_\_\_

At the beginning of the story, Stacy is very pleased that Grandma has come to live in San Francisco. However, they get off to a wrong start when Stacy tries to give Grandma "an American-style bear hug." However, Grandmother pulled back and snapped, "Nice children don't drool on people." Grandma only made things worse when she paid more attention \_\_\_\_\_

to Ian than she did Stacy. Stacy thought this was bad enough, but it got worse.

About a month after Grandma arrived, Stacy decided to show her her dancing, but when she tried to put her pointe shoes on, the ribbons came off in her hands. When she went to ask her grandmother for help, she was horrified by her Grandmother's reaction. "Give me those," she said angrily "they'll ruin your feet." Stacy and her mother had both tried to explain, but Grandmother was so worked up that she wouldn't listen. At the end of the day, Stacy went into the bathroom assuming it was empty. However, Grandma was sitting on the edge of the tub soaking her feet. She immediately dropped a towel on them, but not soon enough to keep Stacy from seeing them. Later that night, Stacy finally heard the story of how Grandmother's feet had been bound. Finally, Stacy understood.

Later the same day, Grandmother came into the room with Ian. Stacy didn't leave. When Ian asked for a bedtime story, Stacy read "The Little Mermaid," the original one. When Ian didn't understand the story, Grandmother explained it. Seeing that Grandmother was speaking more about herself, Stacy took a chance. She explained that her ribbons were for her toe shoes. She showed her grandmother that she could still move just fine when she questioned the calluses. Those ribbons cause a bond between the two of them. Their relationship was better than ever because Stacy was able to see things from Grandma's perspective and appreciate her more.

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CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ R234121 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ This story "Ribbons" is about how a grandmother and a grandchild don't get along at all. The story takes place in San Francisco. Stacy's mother has been trying to get her mother to come from China but she kept refusing and finally she agreed to come. When she arrived, they greeted her in Chinese, "Paw-paw." Stacy thought she could give her an American hug by hugging her but Grandmother rejected and said "Nice children don't drool on people." And that's where it all started by Grandma complaining. Stacy tries to be nice to her but Grandma just ignores her and pays more attention to Ian her little brother.

\_\_\_\_\_ One time Stacy walked into the bathroom and her grandmother was soaking her feet and she saw her feet they were awful. Then she had asked her if she could help her tie her ballet shoes and she got furious. She told her, "Burn them, Bury them."

At the end grandmother came in and told Stacy to read "The Little Mermaid." She read how supposedly when she walked on the land her feet were like standing on knives. Stacy's mother had told her that the reason why her mother took the ribbons away because when her Grandma was small her mother would tie her toes back and she thought that's what the ribbons were for. Stacy realizes that her grandma just didn't want her to get hurt. She learns that sometimes you need to know about a persons past to understand why they act the way they do.