

“Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros

(Publication Information: *Woman Hollering Creek* (1991))

1995 Prose Question—

Sandra Cisneros’ “Eleven”: Show how the author uses literary techniques to characterize Rachel.

1. Discuss Cisneros’ use of POV. Whose perspective? Specifically what type of POV and how do you know? Identify examples showing how Cisneros writes the story so that this choice of POV is effective.
2. Setting—What specific examples can you find that identify time and place?
3. Identify and discuss the four similes in the story:
 - A. The first simile is when the main character, Rachel, is complaining the way you grow up to...
 - B. The second simile can be found when the teacher, Mrs. Price, gives the red sweater to Rachel. The red sweater sits on her desk...
 - C. The third simile is when Rachel pushes the sweater to the corner of her desk until...
 - D. The fourth simile is at the very end of the story. Rachel says...
4. Examine the use of repetition in the story. How is it used? Identify specific examples? What does the author create by using it?
5. Why doesn’t Rachel want to be eleven in the story?
6. What are some life experiences you have had that are significant in the “rings” of your life?
7. Have you ever had an experience like Rachel’s?
8. What message does this story state about innocence? State it as a universal truth. Support your assertion with examples from the story.
9. What message does this story state about family? State it as a universal truth. Support your assertion with examples from the story.
10. Based on your answers to all of the above questions, how would you answer the 1995 Prose question? Outline your response.