

This is
very well written.

①

The play "Topdog/Underdog" ^{revolves} ~~is revolved~~ around two characters. Lincoln and Booth are brothers who contrast in a variety of ways, personality, income, and actions. Lincoln, who has a job ~~as playing~~ ^{as Abraham Lincoln}, cares more about upholding his morals and positively contributing to the state of society. On the other hand is Booth who has no job and gets by in life by gambling as well as thievery. It's made clear throughout the play that neither Lincoln's morality nor Booth's shady tactics are enough to make it in their world, the brothers need one another.

direct quote or
confident summaries
on page

Lincoln says something on Pg 31 along the lines of that he likes working at his job which Booth wouldn't know of, which proves he has a better source of income. Lincoln doesn't need to gamble, hustle, or steal to survive in the economy. On Pg 18, Booth inquires him saying "How you gonna get a woman if you ain't got a phone?", suggesting that Booth cares about his obtainment of women. Booth also reveals that he'd become violent without having constant sexual release, similar to a hypersexual maniac, said around Pg 20 of the play. Two more reasons why Lincoln is considered to be more of the "Topdog" is due to his legal/moral way of making money as well as his absent need of constant sexual action.

In conclusion, Lincoln is clearly the "Topdog" out of the two brothers. He has a higher level of morality, maturity, and even independency. Booth is far too aggressive, hot-headed, and

looks like
your Acting
class is
bleeding
into this
class!
XD

pg # 7

~~his mindset is a fixed one. Lincoln, on the other hand~~
~~presents himself in the way everyone should want to be~~
~~presented or seen. I don't think there's any argument for Booth~~
~~to be labeled as "Topdog".~~

AS

PLATE
(B)

2

[REDACTED]



Awesome
essay!

The play Topdog/Underdog by Suzan-Lori Parks compares 2 characters throughout the play which argues who's Topdog. The two main characters of this play are brothers named Lincoln and Booth. I think after reading the play that Lincoln is topdog and it shows throughout the play. Lincoln is overall more mature, stable, selfless, and clear-headed and that is why I think he top dog. ~~Also~~ because his charisma and his tone throughout the play expresses top dog.

Lincoln's attitude and actions in certain situations compared to Booth gives topdog energy. In the play on pg. 15 Lincoln says, "You don't got no money. All the money you got I bring in here." This quote shows that Lincoln has leadership and control over Booth in a way. In the play on pg. 22 they both talk saying, "Lincoln: I can't be hustling no more, bro. Booth: What do you do all aint no hustle? Lincoln: Its honest work." This quote shows how Lincoln is a changed and mature man making an honest living unlike Booth, which results back to why Lincoln is the Topdog and not Booth. Lastly in the play on pg. 46 Booth says "I got her this ring today. Diamond. Well, diamond-escape, but it looks just as good as the real thing. Show it to her and she loves it and I show it on her finger and its a tight fit right,

Love that you also
show why Booth is
not topdog.

Great quote!

So she can't just take it up on a whim, like she did the last one I gave her. Smooth, right?!! This quote explains Booth's immaturity, slickness, and what he values most. Even with his hustling, game and inconsistent financial state he still chooses to make horrible decisions on what he buys with the little money he has.

In conclusion, this is why I believe Lincoln is the Topdog and Booth is the Underdog. The quotes analyzed in contrast the two lifestyle and characteristics throughout the play. It shows Lincoln being on a more positive and higher level mentally and financially. It also shows Booth's poor decision making, ~~cockiness~~ ^{cockiness}, and incapacities of why he can't be "Top Dog". Overall this is who and why I think Lincoln should be considered and is the Top Dog.

1/2

3

[REDACTED]

100!

[REDACTED] you nailed this!



beautifully
written

In Suzan-Lori Parks play *Topdog/Underdog* the relationship between two brothers, Lincoln and Booth, unfolds against themes such as brotherhood, poverty and the battle for power. I argue Lincoln is the topdog in the play, as he embodies responsibility, sacrifice, and the burden of family expectations, which define his characters role and significance.

Lincoln's position as topdog is shown through his interactions and sacrifices he makes for Booth. For example, when Lincoln says "I'm not a hustler, I'm a man." (p.25) it shows he wants to rise above the life of gambling.

This quote shows the theme of money equating to power, as Lincoln seeks to redefine himself beyond the struggles that bind them. Also when he says "I'm trying to do the right thing." (p.42) it shows his commitment to being a responsible figure in Booth's life.

Whilst Booth's behavior is reckless. Lastly when he says "You can't be my brother if you can't be my friend." (p.58) shows the theme of brotherhood.

Yes!
Love that
you explain
your quotes.

In conclusion Lincoln serves as
top dog in Top dog/Underdog due to
his embodiment of responsibility, sacrificing, and
family expectations. Through his words and
actions, how he navigates the environment
and handles his relationship with Booth
he is ultimately topdog,



(A)

95
very nice!

In Suzan-Lori Parks' play "Topdog/Underdog," the major themes of poverty, gambling are themes that have become deeply intertwined with the story. The characters of Lincoln and Booth are two brothers that navigate their way through struggles of poverty and their complicated relationship. Poverty is a central theme in the play as both Lincoln and Booth struggle to make ends meet and survive in a society that offers them limited opportunities. From the very beginning, we see how poverty has shaped their lives and decisions. Lincoln once a successful three-card monte player, is now forced to work as an Abraham Lincoln impersonator in a arcade to make living. Booth, on the other hand, dreams of becoming a successful three-card monte player like his brother but is constantly plagued by his own financial struggles.

One way poverty manifests itself in the play is through gambling. Both Lincoln and Booth are drawn to the high-risk, high reward nature of gambling as a way to escape their financial hardships. As Lincoln states "Gambling's the quickest way out of poverty. But, obviously, we didn't all make it out!"

take the chance to explain the quote.

In conclusion, the themes of poverty and gambling in "Topdog/Underdog" serve to show the struggles and conflicts faced by Lincoln and Booth. While both characters strive to break free from the shackles of poverty and claim the title of topdog, ultimately, it is Lincoln who emerges as the true topdog, as he finds a way to overcome his past and chart a new path for himself, while Booth remains trapped in his own destructive cycle.

5

~~you~~ nailed
this!

100!

9-15-24



Topdog / Underdog Essay

Theme: Brotherhood

The play topdog / underdog is a play where two brothers, Lincoln and Booth hustle and scam their way through life in an attempt to make a living for themselves. I believe Lincoln is topdog, he carries himself with maturity, he may lack masculinity, but provides the money and himself with care. Lincoln is topdog because of his ability to be able to forgive and move on. Lincoln is intelligent and has a successful history of being a 3 Card-Monte. Lincoln offers to help his little brother become successful just like at 3 Card Monte, exactly his generosity.

Wonderful
introduction

On page 15 Lincoln says, "You don't get no money. All the money you get I bring in here," Lincoln makes his point known here of why he's a topdog by letting Booth know all the money he has Lincoln's providing. Lincoln's brotherhood is shown on page 16 where he's giving Booth advice on how to hustle, "You wanna hustle 3-card monte, gotta do it right, you gotta break it down. Practice it in smaller bits. Yr trying to do the whole thing at

Yes!

← excellent!

once that's why you keep fucking it up".
Lincoln is correcting Booth's terrible effort at
scamming, and wants him to be successful at
making money. Finally, Lincoln's maturity is seen on
page 66 where he's able to come to an
understanding as to why his parents left him and
Booth, forgiving them. "I think there was something
out there that they liked more than they liked
us."

In the end, despite Lincoln being killed his
topdog energy was displayed throughout the whole
play. Booth couldn't contain his immaturity tendencies
and emotions which led to him killing his brother,
yet Link never responded in a violent manner. Not
only was Lincoln able to provide for his brother,
but himself as well. He was a successful guy who
in my opinion portrayed Lincoln very well. Lincoln was
the true topdog.

↑
Wonderful
conclusion

⑥

100

Wonderfully
Written!



Great
introduction!

[REDACTED], Period 4,

Suzan-Lori Parks' play *Topdog/Underdog* is a play about two brothers who are fiercely competitive about who the underdog or top dog is. I will express my thoughts about who I think is the top dog in this play by utilizing the theme brotherhood. Lincoln in my opinion, is the top dog since he is and acts as the older brother and demonstrates his maturity. Lincoln also in the play is the only one making money the right way.

Nailed
it!

In the play *top-dog/underdog*, it states "I could contact my old crew. You could work with them..." pg 44. This quote shows that Lincoln is top-dog because he is enabling Booth to utilize his former crew, who are skilled hustlers, for Booth to improve and maybe increase his income. In the text it states "... We don't want the rent spent... We don't need a phone, How are you gonna get a woman if you don't have a phone?" pg 29. Lincoln is demonstrating maturity and brotherhood in this quotation by trying to convince his brother Booth that they don't need a phone and don't need to waste their rent money. "You and me could team up and do it together we'd clean up, Linky I'll clean up bro Pity. In this quote Lincoln is showing brotherhood and maturity by tying up after his younger brother playing the role of an older brother and topdog.

Suzan Lori Parks' play *Topdog/Underdog* Lincoln comes out as topdog when it comes to the Brotherhood theme. Throughout the entire play Lincoln demonstrates brotherhood toward his younger brother. Lincoln also carries the majority of the money needed to keep a roof on—

all known
nothing

201



Top of brothers had. In the play, there were even instances where
Lincoln lost that house for Booth.

Long
March

10/1/01
11/1/01

7

Name

Date

11/21/24

Period



Black American Playwrights

Fairview Constructed Response

Directions: Read the attached selection from *Fairview* by Jackie Sibbles Drury, the following prompt:

Based on the excerpt provided, what do you believe is the message that the author wants to communicate to the white audience? Provide specific textual evidence to support your reasoning.

Write your response in the space provided.

In the play "Fairview" by Jackie Sibbles Drury, there is an overall message the author is trying to communicate to the audience watching. I believe the message that is trying to be communicated is to treat and view others with the same fairness. As Keisha, a young teenage girl goes on a monologue towards the end of the play, throughout it you can clearly tell that there is a hidden message trying to be shown to the audience. For instance, in the script it says "If I could tell it, and it would be something like a story about us, by us, for us, only us. But that's not telling the story." What I believe Keisha is saying here is that there's a story she wants to tell of fellow colored people. But, she is unable to due to white people's common misconception and stereotypical view on colored people. I believe the author had Keisha be the character to give the monologue because of her perspective in the world. She is young, has most

likely had firsthand experience with these stereotypes, and isn't afraid to speak out. By the end of the monologue after Keisha has all the white people in the audience come on stage, she says "They took it all in, And in their estimation they found all of it, their view over all of it, the sum of all of it, to be fair."

→ By having the white people in the audience come on stage they are participating in the active racism happening during the play. Keisha's final message is to take a second and understand black people's views and experiences instead of the stereotypical kind. To view others with fairness.

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4th

Black American Playwrights

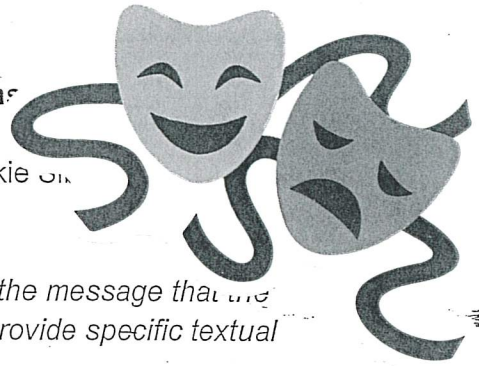
Fairview Constructed Response

Directions: Read the attached selection from *Fairview* by Jackie Jones and respond to the following prompt:

Based on the excerpt provided, what do you believe is the message that the author wants to communicate to the white audience? Provide specific textual evidence to support your reasoning.

Write your response in the space provided.

Based on the excerpt provided I believe that the Author wants to communicate to the white audience that if they put themselves in the shoes of colored people and live the lives of colored people they'll realize that it's all the same and that white people can't control what colored people are. Evidence to support my reasoning is when Keisha asks the people who identify as white to go up on stage and "switch for a little while" and to "sit on the couch. Make your self a plate and look out from where I am". In this phrase Keisha is telling the white audience to "switch" and to put themselves in the shoes of a colored person and to see how a life of a colored person is and how it is not ~~different~~ so different from their life and this will help white people realize that colored people are more than just single stories and stereotypes. Keisha also mentions how "Those seats are not theirs even though they paid for them and that no one can own a seat forever and that no one should"



✓ This tells white people that they ~~can't~~ control colored people forever and that even though society has put them as the "better race" there will be a time that their "seat" will be taken.

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9/10
Name _____

Date _____

Black American Playwrights

K.S: 3

Fairview Constructed Respons

There is no world
without theater

Directions: Read the attached selection from *Fairview* by Jackie
the following prompt:

Based on the excerpt provided, what do you believe is the message that the author wants to communicate to the white audience? Provide specific textual evidence to support your reasoning.

Write your response in the space provided.

✓ After reviewing the excerpt race plays a tremendous part. This is said due to the interaction we see between Suze and Keisha, Keisha goes on to call Suze white after being in a debate of not knowing what to call her. After this Keisha goes on a rant on how whether white or black you take the time to not only focus on yourself and the things your entitled to but to recognize the dedication of other. I believe this was produced by Keisha, to reveal that most of the time white people feel as though their entitled to something, while black people work to be better than what the world may label or present them as. There is a quote that is stated by Keisha "Just stop worrying about your things, for a minute and worry about where you can go, what you can do to make space for someone else for a minute!"

So with all being said ~~the~~ the message here
is to see what you capable of doing for
others than yourself.

This
is your
thesis
it should
be at the
beginning
of your
response.

Name _____ Date 11/21/24 Period 4

Black American Playwrights

Fairview Constructed Response

Directions: Read the attached selection from *Fairview* by Jackie Sibblies Drury. Then answer the following prompt:

Based on the excerpt provided, what do you believe is the message that the author wants to communicate to the white audience? Provide specific textual evidence to support your reasoning.

Write your response in the space provided.

I believe the message the author is trying to get across is that most of the audience is watching and judging, although they have never personally experienced the same things as Keshia. Keshia repeatedly asking for the white audience to take the stage is an example of this. Keshia wants the white attendees to see things from her perspective so they don't continue to make unfair judgements based on limited info. Essentially the author is trying to get the audience & actors to switch perspectives in order for everyone to better understand one another and correct their flaws.

Could use more evidence and reasoning.

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Name

Date

11-21-24

Period

4th

Black American Playwrights

Fairview Constructed Response

Directions: Read the attached selection from *Fairview* by Jackie Sibblies Drury. Then answer the following prompt:

Based on the excerpt provided, what do you believe is the message that the author wants to communicate to the white audience? Provide specific textual evidence to support your reasoning.

Write your response in the space provided.

This is well-written but it doesn't relate to the excerpt (Keisha's monologue)

make sure to specifically talk about the excerpt

You would have gotten a 0 on Keystone for not using the excerpt provided.

In my opinion the author mainly want's for the white people to come to some type of realization about themselves. In the beginning the play was an average black family getting ready to sit down for dinner. But by time we reached act II the author brings goes addressing them being watched. This opens to the idea that white people are always in someone else's business creating the term 'nigger Karen'. Also that voice always being in the back of your mind no matter what you do.

The white character's have a conversation about the different races and if there could be a race outside of white what would they be. The character Size says she would be a black woman with

the skills she has ~~learned~~ ~~she~~ ~~is~~ ~~not~~
to be or come off as racist, but
she speaks as if color's lack these
skills and it's not the case.

To sum up everything that has been
stated, the author wanted the audience to
think about themselves and how their really
perceived.