



Collage Assignment: The *Circuit* by Francisco Jimenez The Task

As an introduction to the study of literature this school year, you will be working with a group of your peers to present your impressions of ways Francisco Jimenez uses various elements of the narrative: point of view, setting, characterization, conflict, symbolism and figurative language to create a story that is engaging, meaningful, and one that is stylistically unique and effective.

Using whatever poster board, cardboard, paper, fabric, etc. that your group chooses, create a collage that depicts the aspect of the story that your group has been assigned. The completed collages are to be no larger than 11 x 14 inches. In addition to pictures and drawings, the collage should include words and quotations from the story. All group members must participate in a presentation of the collage to the class.

Preparation and Organization

With your group members, review the story and brainstorm about the people, place, events, and images that come to mind as you think about your group's focus. At home, hunt through magazines and newspapers and bring to class four or five pictures, words, and direct quotations from the story that will best illustrate your group's focus area. Bring your materials to class. As a group, decide which quotations, pictures, etc. will best illustrate the aspect of the novel your collage is to represent. Make the collage; then decide how your group will present the collage to the class. See Presentation below.

Options: Review the options below in preparation for being assigned in class to a collage group.

Setting: Choose five or six significant settings. Represent the settings in terms of the impact each has on Panchito; consider also the connection of the various settings with the title of the story. In your presentation to the class, be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

Characters: Choose five or six important characters. Present or depict them in terms of their relationship with Panchito and the significance of their influence upon him. In your presentation to the class, be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

Conflicts: Choose five or six memorable conflicts in the story. Depict the characters involved in each conflict as well as the effect the conflict has on Panchito. (Note: He may have been an observer of the conflict and not necessarily directly involved.) In your presentation to the class be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

Symbolism and Figurative Language: Select examples of five or six particularly effective devices (symbols, images, metaphors, figures of speech) that Jimenez uses to illustrate character, conflict, or theme or to unify the story. In your presentation to the class, be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

Lessons Learned: Put yourselves in Panchito's shoes. Identify three or four of the most important lessons that you think Panchito learns and, perhaps, benefits from his experiences growing up in a migrant family. These lessons may be supported by any of the previous elements: setting, characterization, conflict, use of symbolism and figurative language. In your presentation to the class, be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

The Presentation

Plan a 6-7 minute presentation during which you display and explain your collage. All group members should speak about equal time. Plan the order each member will speak. Feel free to use notes, but please do not read them word for word. Decide where each group member will stand so that the whole class can see the collage as you make your presentation. Practice what you will say so you can establish and maintain eye contact with members of the audience.