

Name _____

Taw's "Finding Prosperity"

Directions: Annotate and respond with evidence to the questions/requests after each passage.

Opening paragraph: I could say that I believe in America because it rewarded my family's hard work to overcome poverty. I could say that I believe in holding on to rituals and traditions because they helped us flourish in a new country. But these concepts are more concretely expressed this way: I believe in feeding monkeys on my birthday — something I've done without fail for 35 years.

1. Summarize this passage in 1-2 sentences.

2. What examples of figurative language do you see in the opening paragraph? Please mark/identify at least two. Consider repetition and punctuation. Explain how such devices assist with the writer's narrative. BE SPECIFIC HERE!

Now, read the passage below, annotate and reply to the questions that follow it.

I never had to explain myself until my 18th birthday. It was the first year I didn't go with my father. I went with my friends and arrived 10 minutes after the zoo gates closed.

"Please," I beseeched the zookeeper, "I feed monkeys for my family, not for me. Can't you make an exception?"

"Go find a pet store," she said.

If only it were so easy. That time, I got lucky. I found out that a high school classmate trained the monkeys for the movie *Out of Africa*, so he allowed me to feed his monkey.

3. Explain how the above passage illustrates the narrator's character development. How has his task changed and how has he adjusted?

Read and annotate the next passage. Answer the question that follows the excerpt.

In a pet store once, I managed to feed a marmoset being kept in a birdcage. Another time, I was asked to wear a biohazard suit to feed a laboratory monkey.

It's rarely easy and, yet, somehow I've found a way to feed a monkey every year since I was born.

4. In the preceding passage, how do these specific examples assist the reader to see further proof of Taw's personal development?

5. Reflecting on the closing below, answer what lesson did the author gain in his life from this ritual and has he successfully translated his message to the reader?

Our family has prospered in America. I believe that I have ensured this prosperity by observing our family ritual and feeding monkeys on my birthday. Do I believe that literally? Maybe. But I have faith in our family and I believe in honoring that faith in any way I can.