

Formal Outline

I. Thesis statement - In the novel April Raintree, April is taken away from her parents, has to live with the racist DesRosiers, and finally accepts her identity.

II. Topic sentence - April was negatively impacted when she was taken away from her birth parents.

a. Separated from Cheryl

i. "That was the last night we'd share the same bed or be really close, for a long time." (9)

b. Parents didn't come to visits

i. "Mrs. DeRosier had been told my parents had not come for the visit." (32)

*Transition sentence - Being removed from her family home was a negative experience, but living with the DesRosiers was even worse.

III. Topic sentence - While April lived with the DesRosiers, she was treated very poorly.

a. Living conditions/chores

i.

b. Maggie + the suitcase

i.

*Transition sentence - Despite the racism April faced, she eventually learned to accept her identity.

IV. Topic sentence - When April accepts her Métis heritage, she can finally accept who she is as a person.

a. Cheryl April wanted to be white → not what she thought

i.

b. Accepts her heritage + culture

i.

*Concluding sentence - When April finally acknowledges her culture, she is able to experience true happiness.

V. Conclusion -

Body #1 - Taken away from parents

Body #2 - Living w/ DesRosiers

Body #3 - Finding + accepting her identity