In the Heights Essay

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# **In the Heights Essays**

# **Plot summary**

Each literature piece is essential in communicating to a given audience about a specified issue of interest. When considering the case of ***In the Heights*,** the main focus is on understanding some of the challenges that may arise in the community setting. The piece offers insight into the different factors influencing character and identity formation within the community. This piece shows how the community's characters have developed and evolved to assume their respective identities (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). This story is about three days of analysis of characters living in New York City in Washington Heights' Latino neighbourhoods. In this community, Usnavi is in love with Vanesa, who is a beautician. His dream is to open a bar in this country. Benny and Nina are in love with the latter`s father opposing their union based on the desire to see her through school. On the other hand, Nina does not want her father to drain his resources to pay for her expensive education despite his desire to sell his business to support her. In the meantime, Abuela, who helped Usnavi after his guardians passed on, wins a $96000 lottery.

# **Musical main theme**

Through the book, there are diverse themes the author has offered according to the characters, their situations and desires. These themes reflect on the main goals driving the completion of the book. Further, the artists have used diverse measures to communicate their ideas to the audience based on the issues affecting the book's characters. This section looks at some of the main themes discussed within the musical context in relation to the characters and their actions (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). The characters have offered the ideal approach for defining the best strategies to communicate their ideas according to the current issues from reading through the book. Their interactions and situations have developed a superior framework for communicating a common theme. In this analysis, the main focus is on addressing the theme of hope.

Hope remains one of the most common and essential themes which drives the entire musical. This theme has been offered from the opening act through characters like Usnavi through the book to the final sections (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). For example, Usnavi is hopeful for better days and a bright future regardless of the poverty experienced by the parents. This theme continues to influence the actions performed by various characters throughout the musical hence making it easy to communicate the desires for a better future. This theme relates to the American culture in that many people struggle to find their identity in the highly segmented community. Further, poverty from the untold stories influenced largely by race has affected the abilities to achieve the desired goals associated with young people`s growth outcomes (Miranda & Hudes, 2013).

# **Sub-themes**

While the musical has discussed hope, several subthemes have been offered throughout the evaluation process. Some of the most common subthemes to address the inclusion of change and family. Change is defined through characters like Nina. Family, on the other hand, is defined through Usnavi. Characters like Daniela have emphasized the importance of family and maintaining positive relationships with members of her clan and social groups. For example, as a business lady, Daniela exposes the effects of resources distribution and opportunities offered to the community's social groups and the ability to achieve the desired goals (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). Like other characters, Daniela shows that such challenges are overcome by maintaining her goals regardless of the differences in minor social groups. The ability to use music has allowed Daniela and other characters to improve their neighborhood despite the available challenges such as poverty.

The change affects the abilities of people to interact with each other throughout the community. Benny is willing to learn a new language just to be closer to Nina. Nina, Usnavi and Claudia all show differences in generations that migrated into the US. These characters show the ultimate change encountered when they moved from their respective homes to the United States to start a new (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). The neighborhood is portrayed positively in accommodating change through music and supporting the young people`s intentions.

# **Three characters**

Nina Rosario

Nina is portrayed as a vibrant young woman who is intelligent and well educated. She is the first in her family to make it to college. She sets to join college with financial challenges. She is considered "the one who made it out (Miranda & Hudes, 2013).”

Vanessa

Vanessa is in love with Usnavi and works at Daniela`s salon. She is described as stunningly beautiful. She resides with an alcoholic guardian driven by dreams of getting a good apartment despite the current financial challenges (Miranda & Hudes, 2013).

Claudia

Claudia is a caring person who took Usnavi in after the death of his parents. She is portrayed as a caring mother with the name Abuela, meaning grandmother in Spanish (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). While she came to the US from Cuba with a dream of going back home rich, she worked as a maid and was not successful in her ambitions.

# **Three songs**

My shot – *Hamilton.* This piece can be classified as “The I Want Song “this song offers the ideal framework for discussing some of the factor motivating people into accomplishing a given goal. This sign falls into the hip hop category and discusses the willingness to achieve the intended goals (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). "Breathe" — *Nina and Company.* Besides, this is a song offered to create suspense and hope. This song is "The Conditional Love" category because it offers Nina a chance to express her feelings towards her love, father, and dreams (Miranda & Hudes, 2013). "Sunrise" — *Nina, Benny, and Ensemble.* This song can be categorized into the “Plotless Act 2 Opener”. However, this song is about love and shows the heights people may prove their love (Miranda & Hudes, 2013).

# **Final reflection of the motivation for writing the piece**

The creative team wrote this musical to express the young people's plight in the minority within the community and their desires to achieve better outcomes. The setting opens up opportunities for understanding the immigrant’s challenges in the US with limited opportunities defining the American culture. This musical has created the need for positive change considering the current trends in prejudice and unequal resources distribution to communities. With adaptation into the film sector, the creative piece will have a significant impact on musical theatre based on improved insight into the best practices to promote the expression of young people.

# **References**

Miranda, L. M., & Hudes, Q. A. (2013). *In the Heights: the complete book and lyrics of the Broadway musical*. Applause Theatre & Cinema Books.