

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Often in works of literature, there are characters—other than the main character—whose presence in the work is essential.

From a work of literature you have read in or out of school, select a character, other than the main character, who plays a key role. In a well-developed composition, identify the character and explain why this character is important.

First, we form a thesis and lead:

Characters other than the protagonist are often essential to the plot development and overall meaning of great works of literature. In August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, the character Solly is essential because he pushes everyone in Aunt Ester's household to focus on the importance of freedom and justice.

Now, please use the slips at your table to find the two strong Supporting Idea statements. Paste them in the appropriate place below:

Supporting Idea 1:

Supporting Idea 2:

Now, try to write a third Supporting Idea for this thesis. Write it first on the slip of overhead paper and then, when you are sure it works, on the lines below.

Supporting Idea 3:

What makes a strong supporting Idea statement?

Slips to be cut and distributed among the tables:

1. Solly pushes people in Aunt Ester's household to focus on freedom and justice by consistently talking about his days in the Underground Railroad.
2. Solly pushes people in Aunt Ester's household to focus on freedom and justice.
3. Solly consistently talks about his days in the Underground Railroad fighting for freedom and

justice.

4. The very core of Solly's life is about freedom and justice.

5. Solly's criticism of Caesar's unjust acts further reminds everyone in Aunt Ester's household about the importance of freedom and justice.

6. Solly cares a huge amount about the people in Aunt Ester's household.

7. In addition, Solly often talks about the fact that Caesar is very unjust.

8. Solly admits that he burned down the mill while standing in Aunt Ester's living room.

9. Solly says about freedom, "You got to fight to make it mean something" (*Gem of the Ocean* IX, p. 1000).

10. At one point Solly starts to talk eloquently to Black Mary about the meaning of justice and freedom.

11. Solly takes Citizen under his wing, teaching him what freedom and justice are.

Supporting Your Thesis: Minilesson