

Note to Educator:

The following document walks students through three versions of the use Supporting Ideas/Details in a single model Open Response. After presenting each version students are asked to discuss what works and what doesn't about the use of Supporting Ideas/Details in the given piece. The final (third) piece serves as a model of strong usage.

Over the course of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow undergoes a spiritual journey in which he finds his true identity.

Supporting Ideas/Details: Version 1

After killing a man, Citizen Barlow comes to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. Aunt Ester takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. In the City of Bones, Citizen Barlow encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. At the end of the play, Citizen puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene which he will use to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there. Over the course of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow undergoes a spiritual journey in which he finds his true identity.

Supporting Ideas/Details: Version 2

The story of *Gem* tracks Citizen Barlow as he undergoes a spiritual journey. After killing a man, Citizen Barlow comes to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. Aunt Ester takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. By the end of his spiritual journey, Citizen Barlow finds his true identity. In the City of Bones, Citizen Barlow encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. In fact, at the end of the play, Citizen puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene which he will use to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there. In putting on Solly's clothes it is as though he is taking on a new identity, the identity of a freedom fighter.

Over the course of August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow undergoes a spiritual journey in which he finds his true identity.

Supporting Ideas/Details: Version 3

The story of *Gem* tracks Citizen Barlow as he undergoes a spiritual journey. After killing a man, Citizen Barlow comes to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. Aunt Ester takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. Aunt Ester herself says to Citizen, “You on an adventure, Mr. Citizen. I bet you didn’t know that. It’s all adventure. You signed up for it and didn’t even know it” (*Gem of the Ocean* Iii, p. 23). This adventure is Citizen’s spiritual journey. Indeed, by the end of this spiritual journey, Citizen Barlow finds his true identity. In the City of Bones, Citizen Barlow encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. In fact, at the end of the play, Citizen puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene. The final stage directions to the play read, “ELI drinks. The sound of FIRE BELLS are heard. The lights go down on the scene” (*Gem of the Ocean* IIiv, p. 100). This implies that Citizen has used the kerosene to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there. In putting on Solly’s clothes and completing the task Solly had died fighting to accomplish, it is as though Citizen is taking on a new identity, the identity of a freedom fighter.

Over the course of August Wilson’s *Gem of the Ocean*, Citizen Barlow undergoes a spiritual journey in which he finds his true identity.

Supporting Ideas/Details: Version 1

After killing a man, Citizen Barlow comes to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. Aunt Ester takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. In the City of Bones, Citizen Barlow encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. At the end of the play, Citizen puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene which he will use to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there.

Supporting Ideas/Details: Version 2

The story of *Gem* tracks Citizen Barlow as he undergoes a spiritual journey. After killing a man, Citizen Barlow comes to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. Aunt Ester takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. By the end of his spiritual journey, Citizen Barlow finds his true identity. In the City of Bones, Citizen Barlow encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. In fact, at the end of the play, Citizen puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene which he will use to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there. In putting on Solly’s clothes it is as though he is taking on a new identity, the identity of a freedom fighter.

Supporting Ideas/Details: Version 3

The story of *Gem* tracks Citizen Barlow as he undergoes a spiritual journey. After killing a man, Citizen Barlow comes

to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. Aunt Ester takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. Aunt Ester herself says to Citizen, "You on an adventure, Mr. Citizen. I bet you didn't know that. It's all adventure. You signed up for it and didn't even know it" (*Gem of the Ocean* Iii, p. 23). This adventure is Citizen's spiritual journey. Indeed, by the end of this spiritual journey, Citizen Barlow finds his true identity. In the City of Bones, Citizen Barlow encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. In fact, at the end of the play, Citizen puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene. The final stage directions to the play read, "ELI drinks. The sound of FIRE BELLS are heard. The lights go down on the scene" (*Gem of the Ocean* Iiv, p. 100). This implies that Citizen has used the kerosene to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there. In putting on Solly's clothes and completing the task Solly had died fighting to accomplish, it is as though Citizen is taking on a new identity, the identity of a freedom fighter.