

## Only Daughter

- Sandra Cisneros

Sandra Cisneros' essay "Only Daughter" is about her growing up the only daughter in the family with six brothers. All her life her father always said he had seven sons and she never corrected him. It seemed all she wanted was to be recognized as his daughter and not one of his sons. After ten years of writing professionally one of her books was sold to a major New York publishing house. Cisneros flew home to Chicago for Christmas to be with her family and she brought a story that was translated into Spanish. She gave the story to her father to read and he loved it, wanted to make more copies for their relatives. This became the most wonderful thing that has happened to Cisneros in the past year.

Not being recognized by your parents can be heartbreaking. You hope to be accepted by them and you want them to believe in you. All Cisneros wanted was her father to accept her for her and maybe look at her differently than her six brothers. He seemed to think all of his children were alike and fail to recognize their differences.

Growing up in a family with all boys must have been very tough. Her brothers can all play and be with each other because they have things in common while she was left to play by herself. All her brothers did not want the embarrassment of playing with a girl in public so they never played with her. Although Cisneros states, "But that aloneness, that loneliness, was good for a would-be writer". Cisneros believes that she became a better writer because she was left alone so it gave her time to write.

**Sandra Cisneros** आफू एकली छोरी हुदा गुमाएको परिचयका बारेमा कुरा गर्छिन् । उनको परिवारमा छ जना दाजुभाई अनि उनी एकली छोरी थिइन् । बाबुले सातवटा छोराहरू छन् भन्दा उनी एकदमै अपहेलित अनुभव गर्छिन् । उनले उनका पिताले छ छोरा र एक छोरी छन् भनिदिएको भए हुन्थ्यो भन्ने सोच्छिन् ।

एकली छोरी हुँदा एकदमै गाह्रो हुने कुरा व्यक्त गर्छिन् । उनका दाजुभाइहरू केटा भएकाले एक आपसमा धेरै कुराहरू मिल्थ्यो अनि संगै खेल्थे तर दाजुभाइ उनीसंग खेल्न मन पराउँदैनथे । किनकि उनी छोरा होइनन् । उनको बाल्यकाल एकलै रूपमा बित्यो । त्यो एकलोपन अहिले लेखक हुनका लागि आवश्यक भएको कुराको अनुभूति गर्छिन् ।

आफ्नो लेखन पेसा अपनाएको दस वर्षपछि स्पेनिस भाषामा उल्था गरेको किताब पितालाई दिइन् । त्यस बखत पिता खुसी हुँदै **Sandra** को विगतको अनुभूति पढेर नातेदारले पनि बुझ्नु भन्ने उद्देश्यले थुप्रै किताब छपाउने निधो गरे ।

## Question Answers

### A. Comprehension :

Q.1. What does Cisneros mean when she writes that being an only daughter in a family of six sons "explains everything" ?

ANSWER : She means that the way she was raised had to do with how many sons and daughters were in the family. This in turn affected the way she turned out as a person

Q.2. What distinction does Cisneros make in paragraphs two and three between being "the only daughter" and being "only a daughter"?

ANSWER : The only daughter just means that she is the only female child, whereas "only a daughter" feels like she is less than she would be if she were a boy.

**Q.3. What advantages does Cisneros see in being "the only daughter"? "In being "only a daughter"?"**

**ANSWER :** Being "the only daughter" allowed her time to be alone and allowed her time to develop her mind as a writer. Being "only a daughter" meant that her father wouldn't question her choice of major in college as long as she went.

**Q.4. Why does her father think she has wasted her education? What is her reaction to his opinion?**

**ANSWER :** Her father states that she wasted her education because she did not find a husband while she was in college. As it states in the text, she wanted her father to understand what she was writing and for him to introduce her as "His only daughter, the writer." Not as "This is only my daughter, she teaches."

**Q.5. Why is her father's reaction to her story the "most wonderful" thing that happened to Cisneros that year?**

**ANSWER :** The reason her father's reaction was the most important thing that happened in her life that year is because all she wanted was for her father to be proud of her for her accomplishments. In the she states that everything she had ever written had been for him and to win his approval.

**B. Purpose and Audience :**

**Q.6. Although Cisneros uses many Spanish words in her essay, in most cases she defines or explains these words. What does this decision tell you about her purpose and her audience?**

**ANSWER :** By using Spanish words within Cisneros' essay. Her purpose is to show case not only to Mexican-American readers, but also by explaining these Spanish words, they also help American readers understand where she comes from.

**Q.7. What is Cisneros' thesis? What incidents and details support this thesis?**

**ANSWER :** Cisneros thesis states that being the only girl born in a family of six boys meant that she would have to over come hard obstacles in her life. Some incidents and details that support this thesis is the fact that her brothers would not play or spend time with her as they felt that she was beneath them. This opportunity gave her the time to think, imagine, and read to herself.

**Q.8. Do you think Cisneros intends to convey a sympathetic or an unsympathetic Impression of her father? Explain.**

**ANSWER :** Cisneros conveyed a sympathetic impression of her father due to the fact that her father does not believe that a female can be well educated. Her father's thought of college was meant for a girl to find a suitable husband. She proved her father wrong by showing him that the value of education in college is more than just a place to find a suitable husband.

**C. Style and Structure :**

**Q.9. Where does Cisneros in only daughter interrupts a narrative passage to comment on or analyze events what does this strategy accomplish?**

**ANSWER :** She interrupts the passage to comment on the event that her father always said he had 7 sons. She mentioned how proud he was of this statement, even though he had 6 sons and a daughter. She felt like that was a sign of her being erased or being replaced for a boy. She didn't seem to let it bother her too much. She also mentioned how he would say it to anyone, hoping to get at least a tad bit of praise. I think that when he said this, she felt like she was less significant than her brothers and that her dad always preferred them over her comment.

**Q.10. Are the episodes in this essay presented in chronological order? Explain.**

**ANSWER :** The essay was not presented in a chronological order. Cisneros would jump back and forth throughout the years to tell small parts of her life story.

**Q.11. What transitional expressions does Cisneros use to introduce new episodes?**

**ANSWER :** Cisneros would use words like "well", "in a sense", "when", and "last year" to introduce a new episodes as a way of transitional expressions

**Q.12. Cisneros quotes her father several times. What do we learn about him from his words?**

**ANSWER :** We can infer that her father was born in a time where females were only meant to stay home, cook, and clean while the males in the family would work and bring home the money. We can also infer that her father has not been to college or else his thoughts of college would not be to find a suitable husband.

**Q.13. Why does Cisneros devote so much space to describing her father in paragraphs 17-21?**

**ANSWER :**Cisneros devoted so much space in describing her father in paragraphs 17-21 to help the reader imagine and understand the emotion that would transpire when her father realize that.