

Name:

Model for Body Paragraphs

Your body paragraphs need:

- A topic sentence
- Context (brief plot summary)
- Quote
- Explanation (how does the quote prove your point)
- Conclusion/Transitional sentence

Lots of you like the phrase “This quote shows...” Here’s a word bank so you can try something different in your explanations!

demonstrates	illustrates	notes	projects	highlights
offers	examines	displays	depicts	showcases
explains	identifies	illuminates	tells	describes
calls attention to	brings light to	reflects	makes clear	conveys

Here’s an example:

Grandma India helps Melba develop strategies for getting through the hardest days at Central High. One day, Melba returns home early from school covered in egg. Anti-integration students had thrown eggs in her hair, and Melba feels embarrassed. She feels the students have taken away her dignity. Grandma India gives her a new strategy - rather than act upset, she should say “thank you” and smile each time she is attacked. Grandma India believes this will take away the students’ power and what they gain from harassing her. Grandma advises her to:

“‘Change the rules of the game, girl, and they might not like it so much.’
‘They’d think I was crazy.’
‘They’d think you were no longer the victim’” (165).

Prior to this conversation, Melba is struggling tremendously with the attacks she’s suffering. This scene makes clear that, more than the physical consequences, it is the emotional effect of the being treated as less than human that are the most harmful. Grandma India’s advice illustrates to Melba that people can only take away her dignity if she lets them. This powerful wisdom reflects an important way Grandma India is instrumental to Melba’s survival at Central High.