

## Questions:

1. What is the summary of this literary piece?
2. What lesson does the author want to convey?
3. What is the relationship of this story to the current time?

## Answers:

### 1. Summary

"Bonsai" is a short story written by Edith L. Tiempo, a renowned Filipino author. The story revolves around a woman named Sabina, who is obsessed with creating a perfect bonsai tree. She lives alone and spends most of her time taking care of her plant.

Sabina's obsession with the bonsai tree stems from her desire for perfection, which is rooted in her unhappy childhood. She meets Ben, a man who shares her love for bonsai trees, and they strike up a friendship. Sabina becomes increasingly obsessed with Ben and sees him as the key to achieving her perfect bonsai tree.

As the story progresses, Sabina's obsession with her tree and with Ben grows, and she becomes increasingly isolated from the world around her. She achieves her goal of creating the perfect bonsai tree, but at a great cost to herself.

The story explores themes of loneliness, isolation, and the human desire for connection and meaning in life. It is a poignant and thought-provoking tale that highlights the dangers of obsession and the price we pay for perfection.

## 2. Lesson

The lesson of "Bonsai" by Edith L. Tiempo is that the pursuit of perfection can lead to isolation and the loss of meaningful connections with others. Sabina's obsession with creating the perfect bonsai tree and her love for Ben leads her to isolate herself from the world around her, ultimately causing her to lose touch with reality.

The story also highlights the importance of balance and moderation in life. Sabina's extreme focus on her bonsai tree causes her to neglect other aspects of her life, including her own emotional and mental well-being. This serves as a warning that we should not let our desires for perfection consume us to the point that we lose sight of what is truly important.

In addition, "Bonsai" shows how our past experiences and traumas can shape our desires and obsessions. Sabina's desire for perfection stems from her unhappy childhood, and her obsession with her bonsai tree serves as a coping mechanism for her pain and loneliness.

Overall, "Bonsai" teaches us to strive for balance and moderation in our pursuits, and to recognize the impact of our past experiences on our current desires and behaviors. It also reminds us of the importance of meaningful connections with others and the dangers of letting our desires consume us to the point of isolation.

### **3. Relationship of this story to the current time**

The themes and lessons presented in "Bonsai" by Edith L. Tiempo are still relevant to current times. In today's world, where social media and technology have made it easier for people to isolate themselves, the dangers of obsession and the pursuit of perfection are even more relevant.

The story also touches on the importance of human connection and the dangers of neglecting our emotional and mental well-being. This is particularly important in the current time, where social distancing and isolation have become the norm due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, "Bonsai" highlights the impact of past experiences and traumas on our current behaviors and desires. This is relevant in today's world, where there is growing recognition of the importance of mental health and the need to address past traumas and experiences.

In conclusion, "Bonsai" remains relevant to the current time, as it continues to provide valuable lessons on the dangers of obsession, the importance of balance and moderation, and the impact of past experiences on our current behaviors and desires.