

## 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

"Tall Story" is a novel by Candy Gourlay that follows the story of a Filipino teenager named Andi who moves to London to attend school on a basketball scholarship. Andi's family is also trying to reunite with her brother, who is tall enough to play professional basketball. Andi has to deal with the culture shock of being in a foreign country, the pressure of performing well on the basketball court, and her own insecurities about being shorter than average.

Meanwhile, her brother Bernardo is struggling with his own issues back in the Philippines. He is constantly teased for his height and feels inadequate in a society that idolizes tall people. He eventually learns to embrace his uniqueness and becomes a hero in his own way.

The novel explores themes of identity, family, and cultural differences. It also tackles issues of racism and discrimination, as Andi faces prejudice from her classmates and even her own coach. Through the characters of Andi and Bernardo, the novel shows that being different is not a weakness, but a strength to be celebrated.

Overall, "Tall Story" is an uplifting and inspiring novel that encourages readers to embrace their individuality and to never give up on their dreams.

## **2. Lesson**

The novel "Tall Story" by Candy Gourlay teaches several lessons, including:

1. The importance of understanding and accepting cultural differences: The novel highlights the cultural differences between Filipinos and British people and how these differences can sometimes cause misunderstandings and conflicts. However, the story also shows how characters can learn to appreciate and celebrate these differences, leading to greater understanding and acceptance.

2. The power of family and community: The novel emphasizes the importance of family and community in shaping one's identity and sense of belonging. The characters in the story find strength and support from their families and communities, which helps them overcome challenges and obstacles.

3. The need to pursue one's dreams and aspirations: The story also highlights the importance of following one's dreams and aspirations, even if they seem impossible or unlikely to come true. The characters in the story pursue their passions despite the odds and are ultimately rewarded for their perseverance and hard work.

4. The impact of physical appearance on self-esteem: The novel explores the issue of physical appearance and how it can affect

one's self-esteem and confidence. The main character, Andi, struggles with her height and feels self-conscious about it. However, over time, she learns to embrace her unique features and becomes more confident in herself.

Overall, "Tall Story" teaches important lessons about cultural differences, family and community, pursuing one's dreams, and self-esteem.

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

"Candy Gourlay's Tall Story" is a contemporary novel that addresses themes and issues that are still relevant today, such as cultural identity, family relationships, self-discovery, and acceptance. The novel's exploration of Filipino and British cultures and the experiences of Filipino immigrants in the UK is particularly relevant in the context of the ongoing discussions on immigration, multiculturalism, and diversity.

The novel also tackles the challenges and complexities of growing up and finding one's place in the world, which is a universal theme that transcends time and place. The characters' struggles with fitting in, dealing with peer pressure, and discovering their own strengths and weaknesses are relatable to readers of all ages and backgrounds.

Furthermore, the novel's emphasis on the importance of family and community, as well as its celebration of diversity and differences, is a message that remains relevant and important in today's society. It encourages readers to embrace their unique identities and to appreciate and respect the diversity of others.

