

Grade 8

C-24 “Narciso Rodriguez”

Describe the mood created by the author in the memoir. Support your answer with relevant and specific information from the memoir.

**Scoring Guide**

<b>Score</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4</b>	The response is a clear, complete, and accurate description of the mood created by the author. The response includes relevant and specific information from the memoir.
<b>3</b>	The response is a mostly clear, complete, and accurate description of the mood created by the author. The response includes relevant but often general information from the memoir.
<b>2</b>	The response is a partial description of the mood created by the author. The response includes limited information from the memoir and may include misinterpretations.
<b>1</b>	The response is a minimal description of the mood created by the author. The response includes little or no information from the memoir and may include misinterpretations. OR The response relates minimally to the task.
<b>0</b>	The response is incorrect or irrelevant or contains insufficient information to demonstrate comprehension.
<b>Blank</b>	No response.

**Scoring Notes:**

The response should describe a mood of gratitude, love, or any similar appreciative mood. The response may include, but is not limited to:

- in paragraph 2: the author says he is “eternally grateful” to his parents for instilling in him a love of cooking. He also credits them for his appreciation of Cuban music “which I adore to this day.” In general he notes their having made an inviting home filled with “endless celebrations” out of “modest” means.
- in paragraph 3: the author credits his parents for instilling in him a great sense of “family” due to the “environment” they created. This sense of family extended to everyone in a time when the larger world was uninviting.
- in paragraph 4: the author mentions his family’s generosity in allowing others to stay with them and notes its reciprocal nature

- in paragraph 5, the author recognizes that his parents came to America “selflessly” in order to “give their children a better life.” He details their challenges and obstacles and observes that they “endured.”
- in paragraph 6, the author states, “I will always be grateful to my parents for their love and sacrifice. I’ve often told them that what they did was a much more courageous thing than I could have ever done.” He mentions his admiration and having thanked them yet admits that he has, “no way to express my gratitude.”
- in paragraph 7, the author states, “I will never forget that house or its gracious neighborhood or the many things I learned there about how to love. I will never forget how my parents turned this simple house into a home.”

In conclusion, the author creates an appreciative mood by describing all of the things he is grateful for including his parents and the home they made for him.

Other interpretations are acceptable if supported by relevant evidence from the text.

Annotation:

4A

54. The author in the memoir creates a happy, admiring, and touching mood in his story. When he describes the kitchen, the author sets a happy mood to his memoir. He says: "My parents both shared cooking duties and unwittingly passed on to me their rich culinary skills and a love of cooking that is still with me today. Passionate Cuban music filled the air, mixing with the aromas of the kitchen. Here, the innocence of childhood, the congregation of family and friends, and endless celebrations that encompassed both, formed the backdrop to life in our warm home." The use of descriptive words helped create a happy, or related mood to his story. In the memoir, the author creates an admiring mood by talking about how his parents came over to the United States. It says in the memoir: "They came selflessly, as many immigrants do, to give their children a better life, even though it meant leaving behind their friends, families, and careers in the country they loved... The faith that this struggle would lead them and their children to better times drove them to endure these hard times." Later on, the author also tells them of his admiration of their strength and perseverance. In the end, a touching mood is produced when the author describes his home. The author tells us that his home is where he learned the real definition of "family", and for that, he will never forget the house or the neighborhood and how to love. He finishes off the touching mood by saying that he will never forget how his parents turned a simple house into a home. In the memoir, a happy, admiring, and touching mood is created by the author by expressing his thoughts and feelings.

Annotation:

4B

54. In the memoir by Narciso Rodriguez, he presents a very loving mood with the concepts of family, acceptance, and sacrifice. First, he talks about his "family." He and his family had a different definition of "family." Those who were in their "family" were just those in need, it had nothing to do with being a blood relative. Narciso said "My parents always kept their arms and their door open to the many people we considered family." Second, he and his family were very accepting about the people around them. Narciso lived in a very diverse neighborhood, with people from Cuba, Spain, and Italy. Unlike other places, where segregation was prominent, "all of these cultures came together in great solidarity and friendship." Lastly, his parents sacrificed a lot "to give their children a better life." They left behind their "families, friends, and careers in the country they loved," even though the money in America would be less and the jobs would be hard. All of these things that his family did, lent themselves to a loving mood, because they did it all because they loved.



Annotation:

4C

54. In the memoir Home: The Blueprints of Our Lives the author creates a mood of love. He creates a loving mood because of the memories of the past. Narciso Rodriguez lived in an apartment with his parents in Newark, New Jersey. His parents did everything they could for him. For example, "They came selflessly, as many immigrants do, to give their children a better life, even though it meant leaving behind their families, friends, and careers in the country they loved." They came from Cuba. This showed love for their kids, and that they would do anything to make their lives better. Another reason why the mood is love is because of what Narciso Rodriguez showed. He said "I will always be grateful to my parents for their love and sacrifice." That tells you that he cares about his parents. The last reason the mood is love is because "family" was the most important thing to them. Narciso Rodriguez says "I learned the real definition of family." He also explains the love he had for his home and the love he learned there. In this memoir, Narciso Rodriguez shows how the mood is love by explaining what his family and home was like.

Annotation:

3A

54. In, "Narciso Rodriguez" the mood of the story is very loving and caring. This is true because in paragraph 2 it says, "My parents both share cooking duties and unwittingly passed on to me their rich culinary skills and a love for cooking that is still with me today (and for which I am eternally grateful). Passionate Cuban music (which I adore to this day)..." This quote shows the loving and thankfulness he has for his parents. Another example is in paragraph 5 when he says, "My mother and father had come to this country with such courage without any knowledge of the language or the culture. They came selflessly, as many immigrants do, to give their children a better life, even though it meant leaving behind their families, friends, and careers in the country they loved." This shows the loving and care his parents had for him. This explains why the mood of this story is loving and caring.

Annotation:

3B

54. The mood in this story sounds to me very thankful and happy. The boy is happy and grateful that his parents left their beloved country of Cuba in order for their son to grow up in America with a better life. He is very thankful his parents left Cuba even though they had good jobs and had to start over. The mood was also very loving and emotional toward each other and their neighbors. Everyone in the neighborhood treated everyone like family and helped each other out. In the excerpt the boy talked about all of the risks his parents took for him and how his family showed him true love. That is why I think the mood was happy, thankful, and loving.



Annotation:

3C

54. The author was trying to get a specific mood created in the memoir. He was trying to make it a very happy and loving mood. "... I learned there about how to love." He said that growing up in this house instilled him with a great sense that family had nothing to do with being a blood relative. Many people would come to visit his house because the people there were so kind. If you were down on money or anything you could go there and have a place to stay. "The congregation of family and friends, and endless celebrations that encompassed both formed the backdrop to life in our warm home." The last sentence he uses in his memoir sums up the whole mood of the memoir. "I will never forget how my parents turned this simple house into a home."



Annotation:

2A

54. The author in the memoir created a mood in which every thing in their house was wonderful. The author said that the aromas from the kitchen mixed with the sound of passionate Cuban music. Also, the author tells that friends, family, and neighbors all got together as one giant family all looking out for one another. The author also said that his parents would take in any one needing to get back on their feet because they would receive the same treatment in return. There are many things the author of this memoir uses to create a wonderful mood.

Annotation:

2B

54. The mood in this memoir was thankfulness. He was thankful that his parents left Cedar for him. He was thankful of the cooking they taught him. He was thankful for their love. He was thankful for the love they gave him. He was thankful for the love they taught him. He was thankful for the home they made. He was thankful for the sacrifices his parents made. He was thankful so much that it is definitely the moral of the story.

Annotation:

54. The mood created by the author is grateful. It is a grateful mood because multiple times in this story Narciso Rodriguez says "I am so grateful for my parents, and he thanks them. One example of him saying he is grateful is paragraph 6 first line it says "I will always be grateful to my parents for their love and sacrifice." Another example is again in paragraph 6 it says "I've thanked them repeatedly." In conclusion Narciso Rodriguez is very thankful and grateful for his parents in this story.

2C



Annotation:

54. The author was very grateful that he was Cuban and that his grandparents were Cuban; and that they raised great children which are his parents. He's happy his parents went to America and gave him a chance to get a good education. The mood that was created by the author in the memoir was a positive good mood. He was just letting us know about his life as well as his family.

1A

Annotation:

54. The author has many moods in the memoir. One mood is the happiness of being in a great family that supports him. Also that he loves his parents very much. Second mood that the author has is that he realized that he had a good birth place in Newark, New Jersey. His final mood was that he had many people to hang out with. This is some of the author's moods in the memoir.

1B

Annotation:

54. The mood created by the author in the memoir is a happy mood. Narciso loved living with parent in that apartment with all the homecooked meals. And that is the mood.

1C



Annotation:

54.

He felt homeless when he wrote  
it and now the author has a home.  
The story has multiple moods too  
so it can make the story better.  
That is the mood in the story.

0