

this paragraph is excellent. much stronger than your analysis of Intimate Apparel

If Nottage's play analyzes the role and influence past memories have upon your construction as an individual, Frost's poem Birches examines the balance between past and reality. The poet portrays this idea through the oscillation movement of the poem which skips back regularly to the topic of a boy swinging birches, reflecting this search for balance. Besides, the act of swinging on birches is presented as a way to escape the hard rationality of the world. This notion demonstrates another facet of the past: the innocence and liberty of childhood the author misses. Thus, as the boy climbs up the tree, he is climbing toward "Heaven". Through the use of this metaphor, the poet allows us to acknowledge that a place where his imagination can be free is similar to "Heaven"; and that reality is a place where his mind is imprisoned. The language used is particularly strong and powerful, demonstrating how strongly he desires to be there, to escape in the past. It is also interesting to point out that since no proofs attest of Heaven's existence, we could wonder if the nostalgic writer is trying to point out that attaining a complete freedom of thoughts and imagination is unrealistic. As well, closing yourself from the world to live in the past, in this case his childhood, is unattainable. Frost pursues on this notion by explaining that climbing birches are a way and opportunity "to get away from the Earth awhile, and then come back to it being over again". The utilization of the word "awhile" shows the temporary aspect of this escape: it cannot last forever. Thus, his imagination came from his childhood, it allowed him to become the poet he is today and, therefore, is unable to forget about it. He endlessly tries to bring himself back to this state even if he knows he cannot only live in his past childhood and has to reach a balance. Furthermore, through the act of swinging on birches, frost highlights the narrator's regret and nostalgia that he can't be at peace as he is now an adult and is unable to leave his responsibilities. He confronts childhood to adulthood or in other terms the freedom of the past to the complexity of reality. The ambiguity of his desire to escape is conveyed by the expression "going and coming back". Each individual has to find and reach an equilibrium between the innocence and liberty the past childhood allows us to experience to the harsh reality of the world full of responsibilities.

Then, through the structure of the poem, the writer establishes a nostalgic and melancholic tone. frost fascinating poem is written in a single stanza, reminding us of a dramatic monologue which enhances the reflective style of the poem. This reflection demonstrates the author's questioning who is to what extent should the past influence us in our living?

At last, frost constructs an oxymoron when he writes that the birches are "loaded with ice on a sunny morning". This visual image creates a contradiction since we don't expect ice to occur in sunshine, and we don't tend to think of winter as sunny. Delving deeper, we could argue that frost explores the past and present cohabiting together and presents to the reader his final conclusion on the relation between past and reality. All in all, Frost conveys the difficulty of adulthood, his search for balance and on a larger scale the complexity of reality when the past seems brighter.

tackle

Overall, both works use similar tools but do not ~~abord~~ tackle the question of the past on the same perspective. The two writers both confront two themes, dreams versus realities for Lynn Nottage's play Intimate Apparel, and, childhood opposing adulthood for frost's work Birches and resort to the use of memories from childhood. However, Nottage presents the role of the past in our lives as a way to evolve, grow and construct yourself. Our previous experiences is what makes us what we are today, how we apprehend others and what choices we intend to make or that we already made. frost's perspective of the past is completely different in his poem, he elaborates on the complexity of adulthood, the attractiveness of the past and how it can be an excellent place to hide, to reflect to be yourself. Nevertheless, frost insists on the need of finding a balance between past and reality: you cannot only live in the past even if it seems more appealing. Thus, one work offers us to reflect on the constructive aspect of the past while the others teaches us how to live with the past, hence, we find a balance.

good observation.  
perhaps a past  
that has been  
taken away from  
the Af American  
community/  
has predetermined/limited  
the opportunities of the  
present / african americans  
do not have the privilege  
of being able to "start fresh"  
you could go a little  
deeper with this idea

"The past is not a package one can lay away" (Emily Dickinson) Explore how far this statement is true for characters in from two works you have studied in OIB.

In literature, characters are greatly impacted by the past and can hardly forget it. In Lynn Nottage's play, Intimate Apparel, the plot is centred on the Afro American community whose daily lives have been created and modified by the role of the past. Similarly, in Frost's poem Birches, the writer explores the influence of the past, notably his memories, on himself. Both novels give us a retrospection of past's role on human beings and how it affects them. Nottage's play examines the effects\* on building yourself as an individual whereas Frost's poem analyzes the past as a way to escape of the past

I think you could go a touch deeper with Frost, here

carry your idea  
from the intro  
through here  
--even a past created  
by previous generations!

Through Lynn Nottage's novel, Intimate Apparel, we are able to acknowledge the influence of the past upon individuals, that it is part of your identity and that you can't leave it behind you. Firstly, through Esther's character, the writer conveys that the past is a circle, a chain of repetition that pushes you to build walls in order to protect yourself. This notion is illustrated when Esther grabs Mark's hand and he abruptly pulls it away. The stage direction shows how rude and sudden it was, leading the protagonist to believe it was because of her skin colors as she says "The color won't rub off on you". She experienced racism to a point that she considers every negative reaction is a form of racism. As well, even though she answers in a cold tone, the author precisely did not gave an astonished or shocked tone to illustrate how used Afro-American are to racism. Thus, this repetition of racism in her past led her to progressively become more aggressive in order to protect herself from suffering.

Then, the plot<sup>which</sup> is focused on the Afro-American community have seen their dreams and lives changed by the repercussion of the past. The author uses Mayme's character, as a puppet to illustrate this belief. As a prostitute, she embodies the notion of failed dreams as she said "you think I just laid down and opened my legs cause it was easy". She tried to make her life take a different turn

but society did not let her. Through her brutal and harsh tone, Nottage makes it explicit that life has hurt Mayme, that she had no other choice and that society is terribly unfair to her but also to the black community. The reality of society has altered her dreams into illusion. As well, Mayme later talks about her previous ambition, desiring to be "a concert pianist in Memphis" before abruptly saying "we're just fooling that's all". This sudden shift demonstrates the turn her life took way too suddenly before she could change it.

new character,  
new paragraph

At last, Nottage also portrays the influence of the past upon individuals on love through Mrs. Dickson character. Mrs Dickson links past and love in the play as she explains the story of her mother who married a man for love and not for a high status and regrets it. Consequently, she constantly reminds her daughter that love is unnecessary and only brings pain as she says "look what love has done to me; love did not help her mother have a better and nice life, therefore Mrs Dickson based her life choices on her mother's advice". In other terms, through childhood memories, Nottage's character based her entire life without considering all consequences.

maybe  
more of a  
"defensive"  
tone?

I'm not sure  
aggressive is  
the right  
world --

can  
you give  
an example?

## ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR OIB AMERICAN OPTION WRITTEN EXAMINATION: ESSAY

*N.B.* A short response may require assessment to be lowered.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Below Level</b> -0.5 or more at the discretion of the examiner	<b>Level 0</b>	<b>Level 1</b> + 0.5	<b>Level 2</b> + 1.0	<b>Level 3</b> +1.5	<b>Level 4</b> +2.0
Knowledge & Understanding	No true understanding or first-hand knowledge shown. Factual inaccuracies void argument.	Some understanding but superficial. Learned response replaces first-hand knowledge. Factual inaccuracies affect argument.	Satisfactory understanding and knowledge. Development may be limited with some inadvertent or minor factual inaccuracies.	Good overall understanding. Knowledge is full and developed.	Very good and thorough understanding, including some subtlety. Levels of meaning are apparent. Levels of meaning are apparent.	Excellent understanding, including some subtlety. Levels of meaning are apparent. Detailed and pertinent knowledge.
Response to the Question	Off-subject or no clear response discernible. Observation, commentary or opinion may be present but no attempt to form an argument.	Response is partial or muddled. Argument is directed at the question but may be confused or superficial.	A satisfactory response to the main implications of the question. Some aspects of the question may be ignored.	A good response. Argument addresses the question but may need more development.	A very good response. Argument is complete and well-targeted, and the question is well-understood.	An excellent response. Argument demonstrates original thought and addresses the question with clarity and depth.
Analysis & Depth <small>(Includes discussion of style at Level 2 and above)</small>	Plot summary or generalizations dominate. No successful attempt at analysis.	Plot summary or generalizations frequent. Little or unsuccessful analysis.	Inconsistent analysis that does not always address important elements. Analysis may be uneven or lacking in depth.	Good analysis that appropriately addresses important elements. Generally appropriate analysis of style illustrated by relevant examples.	Very good analysis. Thoughtful, pertinent analysis of style.	Excellent analysis and argumentation. Insightful, sophisticated and coherent analysis of style.
Organization of the Essay & Integration of Evidence	No logical sequence of ideas. Chronological confusion. Development is so inadequate that clarity is in danger of dissolving completely.	Weak or mechanical structure. Development is barely adequate and examples are either impertinent or lack clear connection to the argument.	Satisfactory structure and development. Sequence of ideas generally logical. Examples not always pertinent and integration may be awkward.	Good structure with some transitions. Sequence of ideas logical. Examples are generally pertinent and most often integrated appropriately.	Very good essay structure with solid transitions. Clear development throughout and good integration of supporting evidence.	Excellent essay structure with clear transitions. Carefully planned, persuasive development throughout. Sophisticated integration of supporting evidence.
Expression	Meaning often cannot be surmised. The essay is very difficult to read.	Prose can be read and its meaning surmised even if hampered by weak control (or French interference).	Prose conveys the writer's ideas adequately. Vocabulary is sufficient and notions of good English usage are evident if sometimes inconsistently applied.	Prose shows evidence of good writing skills. Lapses are minor and do not impede understanding. Some care is shown in word choice and register.	Prose is clear and coherent. A rare lapse does not mar ideas or flow. Effective use of vocabulary and register.	Prose is articulate, fluid, and displays an excellent command of written language. Sophisticated use of vocabulary and register.
Totals						

Adopted Nov 2015 OIB