

*The majority of this content is quoted or adapted from A Garden of English.*

## **Part Four: Constructing Conclusion Paragraphs (2-6 sentences)**

Reminder of the Sample Thesis:

*In the passage, the author presents two youthful misunderstandings, describes an arduous journey to a sentimental treasure, and downplays dangerous encounters in order to characterize the narrator's childhood as a time of blissful and naive adventure, ultimately illustrating that nostalgia brings comfort and joy to a mature mind.*

1. Pick up your themes you brainstormed at the beginning
  - Ex. Comfort, sentimentality, nostalgia, adventure, youthful misunderstanding, blissful ignorance, immaturity, secrecy (see the Universal Themes in Literature handout for plenty more)
2. Generate a sentence that establishes the relationship between the ideas considered in step 1; this will be the first sentence of your conclusion.
  - Tip: To do this with style, consider generating a pertinent metaphor to articulate the relationship.
    - i. Original: Remembering the jovial days of yesteryear can be quite comforting, especially when dealing with the realities of adulthood.
    - ii. With Style: Recollection of childhood memories invokes a cozy and comforting sense of nostalgia, which wraps the adult mind in a warm blanket of simpler times.
  - Don't freak out if nothing comes to you--just move on and don't waste time!
3. After highlighting the ideas that the paper explores, write them into a universally applicable model and/or make the audience respond to said ideas in some way, but never by asking a question.
  - This works best if you find and analyze a remarkably pertinent piece of textual evidence as you display the story's universal application.

In other words:

- Write two to three sentences that clearly link the ideas in the prompt to an extension of your thesis.
- Do this by explaining the universal insight (message) the author is presenting to the reader *without* mentioning anything about the plot.
- One technique you may want to consider is finding a "drop-the-mic quote" that thematically summarizes a universal insight and including that in the last sentence of your conclusion. This leaves a "BAM!!!" factor that is undeniable.
- If you're stuck, create a hypothetical "if this didn't happen..." statement or summarize the last event in the resolution. BUT THEN, change all literary elements to universal terms, and then use the sentence that comes from such:
  - Ex. "If..." statement: *If Romeo had only waited a few moments longer, he'd have been able to live happily with Juliet.*
  - Revised to universal terms: *If individuals were only willing to act with a bit more patience and prudence, they would be much more likely to see the "honey of [life's] breath" (V.iii.92).*
    - No plot here, but it did use a great quote, and it's an excellent summary of the author's message.

Sample Conclusion:

*Recollection of childhood memories invokes a cozy and comforting sense of nostalgia, which wraps the adult mind in a warm blanket of simpler times. Positive memories of the more adventurous days hold significant value, and although they spend most of their time tucked away in a "private box of things" (line 18) while hidden in a "cave-dark closet" (line 26) of the mind, one should always remember how to access them and do so often.*