



Julie of the Wolves

by: Jean Craighead George

Character Sketch by: Annie Sheng

Genre: Realistic Fiction

For this quarter's Lit. review, I read a story called *Julie of the Wolves* by Jean Craighead George. The main character in this book is a 13-year-old girl called Miyax. Her full name is Julie Edwards Miyax Kapugen. Julie Edwards is her American name, and Miyax Kapugen is her Eskimo name.

On page 8 the author describes Miyax as having a pearl-round face with a flat nose. Her eyes are moist, black, and sparkling. She is "delicately wired with strong muscles" and small bones. Her cheeks are hollow "like the gussak girls in the magazines, and movies" (28). She wears tights and her body is "thin and gaunt" (28). "Miyax was a classic Eskimo beauty." The author also wrote on pg 28, "Stepping into the sunlight, she put on her tights, danced a moment, and then pulled on her furs. Leaning over the pond, she saw in the the glassy water the hollows of her cheeks. She was pleased for she looked... thin and gaunt, not moon-faced like an Eskimo." Miyax likes that she is pretty, but it is not really important during her adventure.

Miyax has a strong personality. She is brave, intelligent, and bold. I think Miyax is bold because the author wrote on pg 8, "*Amaroq, ilaya*, wolf, my friend," she finally called. "Look at me. Look at me." She spoke half in Eskimo and half in English, as if the instincts of her father and the science of the *gussaks*, the white faced, might evoke some magical combination that could help her get her message through the wolf." This shows me that she must be quite bold to speak to a wolf that might have bitten her because he thought she was dangerous to his pack. She decided to speak to the wolf leader because it was either starve or take that risk. If she was taken in by the wolves she would get a share of their meal and survive.

I can also conclude that she is very brave because the author wrote on pg 33, "As Miyax scurried to meet Jello, he hesitated growled, and urinated. 'Don't be scared,' she said and whimpered. He circled closer. Quickly rising to her knees, grunting the note of friendship, she slipped her hand over his head and clasped the top of his nose firmly in her fingers. 'I'm boss,' she said as his tail and head went down in deference to the symbol of leadership. She started to slip her hand into the corner of his mouth, but he jerked away." This shows me how brave she was when she gripped his nose firmly to show that she was boss when she could have been bitten or challenged. She did this mainly to show him that she is stronger and smarter than him. She had to be brave in order to overpower him so she could get food.

Another strong personality trait of Miyax is her intelligence. I can infer this by the clues that the author left me. For example on pg 22, "Jello narrowed his eyes, pressed his ears forward, and showed his teeth." "I know what you're saying," she called to him. "You're saying, 'lie down.'" "The puppy lay down, and Miyax got on all fours and looked for the nearest pup to speak to. It was Sister." "Ummmm," she whined, and when Sister turned around [Miyax] narrowed her eyes and showed her white teeth.

Obediently, Sister lay down." This shows me that she would have to be really intelligent to put together all the sounds she hears from the wolves to tell them what she wants. Seeing their reaction to the sound also helps her understand and learn wolf language. Miyax is also really intelligent because she had learned the wolf language fast to receive food and protection in order to survive. These are a few of the personality traits that Miyax possesses.

Miyax is a very adventurous girl who might get into a new adventure soon. A new adventure that I think Miyax will get into is finally deciding to go to San Francisco where her pen pal Amy lives. She always wanted to meet Amy in person and live in the pink room that Amy's family had prepared for her if she arrives. Her plan is to register as a maid on a boat headed to San Francisco and learn how to handle clothing and maid work so she could get a free ride there. While on the boat I can imagine that Miyax might discover a mysterious passenger that never talks and finds out the reason on why he never talks. She might also meet a boy that works in the kitchen and solves the mystery with him. I think this because it said in the book that she was suppose to head for the port where the ship headed to San Francisco is docked. Instead though, she got lost and met this pack of wolves. So, I think she is going to resume her trip to San Francisco.

The End!

Excellent
- organization
- sentence structure
- grammar
- editing!

Go Annie!!