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“Growing Up Asian in America”
Kesaya E. Noda is a Japanese-american that writes about her personal experiences growing up as the daughter of Japanese immigrants.

Theme: Noda is trying to make a statement about how someone's race does not define them as a person, and what it takes to find one's own identity.

Tone: she uses a serious and informative tone.
The author begins telling us how was it like to be confused about your own identity. She shares anecdotes in which she tells how she was treated in public, the nicknames other gave to her just because her race, and the kind of questions people usually ask her about her culture and its history. For her, self-definition depended from where you want to see it, from the inside or the outside. That in order to define your identity, first you have to encounter the stereotypes of race and culture.
The author states that she is racially Japanese by telling how her subconscious used to tell her she was different from others, and that she was being seen as an alien. States that it does not matter how much they tried, at the eyes of others, they will always will be seen as different. She also shares historical facts of events that Japanese people had live in order to support her claim.
Noda tells us about her experiences: her confrontation with her parents about the internment camps and how life was at her grandparents’ farm, as well as what she learned from her people there.

She explained that during the war you were either Japanese or American. After the war ended and she managed to settle in California, she embraced her two identities, both the Japanese and the American.

“Why didn’t you do anything to resist? Why didn’t you name it the injustice it was?”
Woman. That’s the last piece of her identity. She tells us about her mother and about the mixed feelings she felt for their relationship. These mixed feelings stated the simplicity of her mother, as well as the respect and easiness she felt towards her. She stated her identity as a Japanese American woman, her mother’s daughter.
Noda’s theme is about identifying one’s identity, and throughout her essay she describes how she managed to discover her own identity: a Japanese American woman.